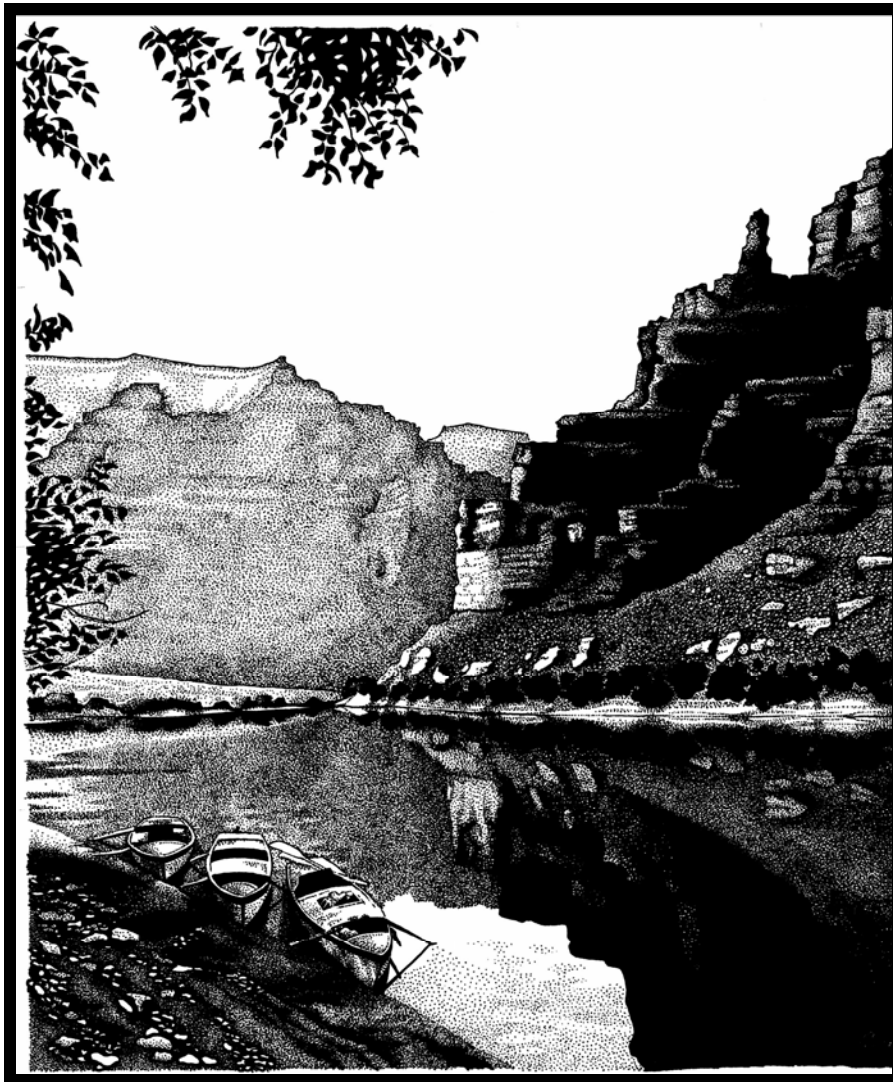


**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**



**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS TO  
THE PRICE FIELD OFFICE DRAFT RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT FOR  
AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN**

**June 2006**

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# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office  
P.O. Box 45155  
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155  
<http://www.blm.gov>



IN REPLY REFER TO:

1610

(UT-910)

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for public review and comment is Supplemental Information and Analysis to the Price Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan (DRMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. This information and analysis should be reviewed in conjunction with the DRMP/DEIS that was previously released.

In July 2004, the BLM Price Field Office released the DRMP/DEIS for public review and comment and inadvertently omitted consideration of four potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) which had been nominated by the public during the scoping phase of the planning process. The BLM regrets this oversight. Further, information was provided during the public comment period for the DRMP/DEIS which further substantiates the need to consider these potential ACECs. Supplemental information and analysis has therefore been prepared to provide a description of these four potential ACECs, to describe any potential impacts relating to the inclusion of these ACECs in Alternative C of the DRMP/DEIS and to document the disposition of other ACEC nominations that were found to lack relevant and important values and were not carried forward in planning. This supplemental information and analysis should be reviewed in conjunction with the DRMP/DEIS that was previously released. Explanatory information is provided in italics and changes made to the DRMP/DEIS relating to ACECs are highlighted in grey.

Four potential ACECs should have been addressed in the action alternatives for the Price Draft RMP/EIS, but were not. These are Desolation Canyon Potential ACEC (159,246 acres), Mussentuchit Badlands Potential ACEC (58,398 acres), White-Tailed Prairie Dog Potential ACEC (9,204 acres), and Lower Muddy Creek Potential ACEC ((29,854 acres). All were nominated during scoping for the plan revision and were determined through BLM interdisciplinary team review to have the mandatory relevant and important values that make them eligible for ACEC consideration. Findings for the Desolation Canyon and Mussentuchit Badlands nominations were made in April, 2004. Findings for the White-Tailed Prairie Dog nomination were made in March, 2005. Findings for the Lower Muddy Creek nomination were made in October, 2004 in coordination with BLM's Richfield Field Office.

The BLM did not consider these potential ACECs in at least one alternative in the DRMP/DEIS, as required by BLM policy. The supplemental information and impact analysis enclosed consider these four potential ACECs in Alternative C of the DRMP/DEIS and provide, in the related appendix, the appropriate rationale and discussion of those nominated areas that BLM found not to meet the relevant and important criteria.

BLM's evaluation and consideration of all nominated ACECs for the Price planning effort is summarized in a "Summary of Nominations Matrix " contained in the attached Appendix 26 of the DRMP/DEIS.

BLM is seeking your comments on this supplemental information and analysis (Note: The four potential ACECs are part of the supplemental information and analysis), as required by 43 CFR 1610.7-2. Comments on the adequacy and accuracy of the supplemental information and analysis are considered most helpful. These comments will assist the BLM in completing the next phase of the planning process: the Proposed RMP and Final EIS.

Comments on the supplemental information and analysis for ACECs will be accepted for 90 days after the publication of a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. Written comments should be sent to: Price Field Office RMP Comments, Attention: Floyd Johnson, 125 S. 600 West, Price, Utah 84501. Comments may also be made electronically at: <http://www.blm.gov/rmp/ut/price>. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Price Field Office during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays and will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). They may be published as part of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS and other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review and disclosure under FOIA, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

BLM would like to express thanks to you for your continued interest in this planning process and to all individuals and organizations that have provided the extensive information and ideas that have been considered.

Sincerely,

/s/

Henri Bisson  
Acting State Director

**DES 06-25**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION and ANALYSIS**

to the

**PRICE FIELD OFFICE  
DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
PLAN/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

for

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN**

Bureau of Land Management  
Utah State Office  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Prepared by the  
Price Field Office  
May 2006

/s/

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Henri Bisson  
Acting State Director

BLM-UT-GI-06-001-1610  
(supplemental information to BLM-UT-GI-04-002-1610)  
UT-070-2002-11

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## Chapter 2 of the Price Draft RMP/EIS and ACECs

*Chapter 2, Description of the Alternatives, presents the various management strategies for achieving the desired range of conditions in the Draft RMP / EIS. Five alternatives have been identified with different intensities of resource uses and management directions to resolve identified conflicts and achieve the desired range of conditions.*

*Chapter 2 is changed to include the potential management prescriptions for the four ACECs that were not considered in the Draft RMP/EIS when published in July 2004. These four ACECs are considered in Alternative C only. Also, Price River, which was identified as a potential ACEC in Chapter 2 of the Draft RMP/EIS has been removed. This is because the portions of what had been the Price River Potential ACEC that met relevance and importance criteria are now incorporated within the Desolation Canyon Potential ACEC and the Beckwith Plateau Potential ACEC. Changes have been made to not only the ACEC portion of this chapter but also to portion of the Minerals and Energy section as described below*

*Section 2.14 of the Draft RMP / EIS, p. 2-24, is the description of Alternative C. Changes to Chapter 2.14 are highlighted in grey below.*

### 2.14 ALTERNATIVE C

Key management decisions are discussed below.

WSAs will continue to be managed according to the IMP until Congress either designates them as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System or releases them from wilderness study.

With Alternative C, all eligible river segments of the Green River, San Rafael River, Price River, Range Creek, Rock Creek, Barrier Creek, Bear Canyon, Buckskin Canyon Creek, Cane Wash, North Fork Coal Wash and South Fork Coal Wash, Cottonwood Wash, Fish Creek, Gordon Creek, Keg Spring Canyon, Muddy Creek, Nine Mile Creek, and North Salt Wash would be determined suitable for designation by Congress as part of the NWSRS with tentative classifications of recreational (129.5 miles), scenic (238.2 miles), and wild (272.9 miles). They would be managed to protect their outstandingly remarkable values, free-flowing nature, and tentative classification to the extent of BLM's authority, which is limited to BLM lands within the river corridor).

Alternative C includes continued management of Big Flat Tops ACEC (relic vegetation), Copper Globe ACEC (historic mining and cultural resources), Dry Lake Archeological District ACEC (cultural resources), Highway I-70 Scenic ACEC (scenic), Muddy Creek (cultural resources, historic, and scenic), Rock Art ACEC (formerly Pictographs ACEC) (cultural resources), San Rafael Canyon (recreation, scenic and cultural resources) San Rafael Reef (scenic and vegetation), Segers Hole (recreation and scenic), and Sid's Mountain (scenic) as ACECs. Such management provides protection of noted relevant and important values.

Additional ACECs are analyzed for potential designation to protect relevant and important values as noted. These include 767 acres at the CLDQ (paleontologic resources), Heritage Sites (Wilsonville, Sheperds End, Smith Cabin, Hunt Cabin, Copper Globe, Temple Mountain, and Swasey's Cabin) (historic), Lower Green River (ecologic, vegetation, cultural resources) (42,906 acres), Beckwith Plateau (geologic and natural processes), Temple-Cottonwood Dugout (recreation and cultural resources), Gordon Creek (cultural resources), (4,079 acres), Range Creek (cultural resources and natural processes), Nine Mile Canyon (cultural resources) (60,678 acres), and Uranium Mining Districts (Tidwell Draw, Hidden Splendor, Little Susan Mine and Lucky Strike Mine areas) (historic) (2,856 acres), Desolation Canyon (scenic, cultural, and ecological) (159,246 acres), White-Tailed Prairie Dog (wildlife) (9,204 acres), Mussentuchit Badlands (cultural resources) (58,398 acres), and Lower Muddy Creek (scenic and vegetation) (29,854 acres). The nominated Horseshoe Canyon ACEC has been incorporated into the Lower Green River ACEC.

Recreation would be managed using SRMAs. These areas include Desolation Canyon, San Rafael Swell, CLDQ, Nine Mile Canyon, and Labyrinth Canyon, with special management within these areas for augmentation of the recreation resources and uses within these regions. Management includes minimal development, supporting more primitive or semi-primitive recreation opportunities.

Grazing would continue with some changes in Alternative C. Changes in grazing management include administrative process issues, reallocation of forage in allotments that have not been grazed by livestock in recent years, and combining of adjacent allotments with very few AUMs, as well as reallocation of some AUMs from livestock to wildlife. (Specific changes are outlined in the alternatives table in section 2.16.)

Mineral and energy development would be managed as follows: Areas open to leasing, subject to the terms and conditions of the lease form (0 Acres); Areas open to leasing, subject to minor constraints (Timing Limitations; Controlled Surface Use, Lease Notices) (1,485,000 Acres); Areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints (No Surface Occupancy) (385,000 Acres); and Areas closed to leasing (620,000 Acres).

*A portion of the Minerals and Energy Resources section of the Alternative Summary Table is changed to reflect altered management relating to “Oil, Gas, Coal Bed Natural Gas, Combined Hydrocarbon Leasing,” page 2-99. Please see the relevant portions of Chapter 2.16 below with changes highlighted in grey.*

## 2.16 ALTERNATIVE SUMMARY TABLE (p. 2-96)

No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Minerals and Energy Resources				
Oil, Gas, Coal Bed Natural Gas, Combined Hydrocarbon Leasing - Existing development is managed according to combined hydrocarbon EIS (1984), EA on oil and gas leasing (1988), three EIS addressing coal bed natural gas development (1992, 1997, and 2001)				
<p>Mineral Leasing management is shown on Map 2-27.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to the terms and conditions of the lease form (992,521 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to minor constraints (Timing Limitations; Controlled Surface Use, Lease Notices) (1,137,557 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints (No Surface Occupancy) (220,972 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas closed to leasing. (128,277 *Acres)</li> </ul> <p>*Does not reflect WSAs as closed to leasing.</p>	<p>Mineral Leasing management is shown on Map 2-28.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to the terms and conditions of the lease form (1,870,999 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to minor constraints (Timing Limitations; Controlled Surface Use, Lease Notices) (0 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints (No Surface Occupancy) (73,043 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas closed to leasing. (546,765 Acres)</li> </ul>	<p>Mineral Leasing management is shown on Map 2-29.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to the terms and conditions of the lease form (0 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to minor constraints (Timing Limitations; Controlled Surface Use, Lease Notices) (1,693,861 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints (No Surface Occupancy) (233,641 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas closed to leasing. (546,690 Acres)</li> </ul>	<p>Mineral Leasing management is shown on Map 2-30.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to the terms and conditions of the lease form (0 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to minor constraints (Timing Limitations; Controlled Surface Use, Lease Notices) (1,485,000 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints (No Surface Occupancy) (385,000 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas closed to leasing. (620,000 Acres)</li> </ul>	<p>Mineral Leasing management is shown on Map 2-31.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to the terms and conditions of the lease form (1,183,476 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to minor constraints (Timing Limitations; Controlled Surface Use, Lease Notices) (574,335 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints (No Surface Occupancy) (149,306 Acres)</li> <li>• Areas closed to leasing. (584,128 Acres)</li> </ul>

*The majority of alterations to Chapter 2 are in the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern section of the Alternative Summary Table, pp. 2-121 to 2-130. The four potential ACECs, with potential management prescriptions, have been added to the description and summary of Alternative C. There are no errata or changes necessary in Chapter 2 related to existing ACECs. The following changes, then, apply to potential ACECs. Changes to the ACEC section of Chapter 2 are shown below with changes highlighted in grey.*

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern				
<b>Actions Common to All Alternatives—</b>				
Manage ACECs under the selected alternative according to the prescriptions for protection of the relevant and important values.				
<b>Potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</b>				
<b>Lower Green River—Proposed for Ecology, Vegetation, and Cultural Resource Values</b>				
Lower Green River—the proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.  Note: In Alternatives B and C, the proposed area overlaps existing Bowknot Bend and Dry Lake Archaeological District ACECs.	The area would not be managed as an ACEC. Special management is not required for protection of relevant and important values.	The “Lower Green River ACEC” would be identified with the following proposed special management prescriptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain current level of livestock grazing</li> <li>• Prohibit expanded distribution of livestock into riparian areas</li> <li>• Exclude riparian habitats from mechanical land treatments except for the purpose of restoring native habitat</li> <li>• Managed as no surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing</li> <li>• Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special conditions</li> <li>• Open to mineral entry</li> </ul>	The “Lower Green River ACEC” would be managed with the following proposed special management prescriptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grazing allotments to be retired</li> <li>• BLM to prohibit expanded distribution of livestock into riparian areas</li> <li>• Exclude riparian habitats from mechanical land treatments except for the purpose of restoring native habitat</li> <li>• Managed as no surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing</li> <li>• Closed to disposal of mineral materials</li> </ul>	Lower Green River—the proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention. Special management is not required for protection of relevant and important values.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>with plans of operations</li> <li>Designated as limited to OHV use in areas outside of WSA</li> <li>Managed as VRM Class I.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry</li> <li>Designated as closed to OHV use</li> <li>Managed as VRM Class I.</li> </ul>	
<b>Beckwith Plateau—Proposed for Geologic—Natural Processes</b>				
Beckwith Plateau-Middle Mountain/Green River-Desolation/Lower Price River—the proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.	Proposed area would not be managed as an ACEC.	<p>The “Beckwith Plateau ACEC” would be managed with the following proposed special management prescriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated areas outside of WSA as limited to OHV use</li> <li>BLM would apply current management prescriptions for the Gray Canyon wildland area to the entire proposed area</li> <li>Area would be an avoidance area for ROW</li> <li>Manage as closed to leasing for oil and gas</li> <li>Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special conditions</li> <li>Open to mineral entry with plans of operations.</li> </ul>	<p>The “Beckwith Plateau ACEC” would be managed with the following proposed special management prescriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated as closed to OHV use</li> <li>BLM would apply current management prescriptions for the Gray Canyon wildland area to the entire proposed area</li> <li>Area would be an exclusion for ROWs</li> <li>Manage as closed to leasing for oil and gas</li> <li>Closed to disposal of mineral materials</li> <li>Recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry.</li> </ul>	Beckwith Plateau-Middle Mountain/Green River-Desolation/Lower Price River—the proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.
<b>Temple-Cottonwood Dugout Wash—Proposed for Recreation and Cultural Values</b>				
Temple-Cottonwood-Dugout Wash—the proposed area would continue to be managed	The area would not be managed as an ACEC. The remoteness and ruggedness of the area provide sufficient	The area would not be managed as an ACEC. The remoteness and ruggedness of the area provide sufficient	The “Temple-Cottonwood Dugout ACEC” would be managed for protection of recreation and cultural	Temple-Cottonwood-Dugout Wash—the proposed area would continue to be managed for

for multiple use without special management attention.	protection of the noted values without special management prescriptions.	protection of the noted values without special management prescriptions. (Same as Alternative A.)	values with the following management prescriptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manage as no surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing</li><li>• Closed to OHV use</li><li>• Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special conditions</li><li>• Open to mineral entry with plans of operations.</li></ul>	multiple use without special management attention. (Same as No Action Alternative.)
Range Creek—Proposed for Cultural and Natural Process Values				
Range Creek—the proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.	Range Creek—the proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention. (Same as No Action Alternative.)	The “Range Creek ACEC” would be managed for protection of cultural and natural process values. Management prescriptions for protection of these values would include— <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ACEC will have limited public access</li><li>• Closed to OHV use</li><li>• Public access limited to hiking and horseback riding</li><li>• Manage as closed to leasing for oil and gas</li><li>• Closed to disposal of mineral materials</li><li>• Recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry.</li></ul>		
Nine Mile Canyon—Proposed for Protection of Cultural Resource Values				
Note: BLM recognizes the cultural resources in the Nine Mile Canyon area. Additionally, management prescriptions have been developed to address development occurring in the canyon, cross-jurisdictional decisions (BLM, Vernal Field Office) ,valid existing rights, and complex private-public land ownership patterns. BLM will protect cultural resources on BLM administered lands in Nine Mile Canyon. The intent of these proposed ACEC prescriptions is to address, to the extent possible, relevant and important cultural resource values on BLM-administered lands in Nine Mile Canyon.				
Nine Mile Canyon—the proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management	The area would not be managed as an ACEC. The cultural resource values would receive adequate protection under the	The “Nine Mile Canyon ACEC” would be managed for protection of the cultural resource values (prehistoric and historic, including	The “Nine Mile Canyon ACEC” would be managed for protection of the cultural resource values (prehistoric and	The “Nine Mile Canyon ACEC” would be managed for protection of the cultural resource values (prehistoric and historic,

attention.	<p>prescriptions of the SRMA and under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed as areas open to leasing, subject to minor constraints (timing limitations, controlled surface use, lease notices), for oil and gas leasing as indicated on Map 2-28</li> <li>OHV use would be limited to designated routes</li> <li>Managed as VRM Class III as indicated on Map 2-2</li> <li>Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special conditions</li> </ul>	<p>ranching). Note: Following the boundaries of the proposed archeological district, refer to Vernal Alternative A as indicated in Map 2-44. Management prescriptions would include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed as areas open to leasing, subject to minor constraints (timing limitations, controlled surface use, lease notices), for oil and gas leasing as indicated on Map 2-29</li> <li>OHV use would be limited to designated routes</li> <li>Managed as VRM Class II and III in selected areas as indicated on Map 2-3)</li> <li>Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special conditions</li> <li>Recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry.</li> </ul>	<p>historic, including ranching). Note: Following the boundaries of the proposed archeological district, refer to SRMA Alternative C, as indicated on Map 2-45. Management prescriptions would include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed as no surface occupancy for oil and gas as indicated on Map 2-30</li> <li>Cultural sites in the ACEC will be managed for conservation use.</li> <li>OHV use would be limited to designated routes</li> <li>Managed as VRM Class II as indicated on Map 2-4.</li> <li>Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special conditions</li> <li>Recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry.</li> </ul>	<p>including ranching). Note: Following the boundaries of the proposed archeological district, refer to Vernal Alternative A as indicated on Map 2-46. Management prescriptions would include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oil and gas leasing would be areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints (no surface occupancy) the ACEC, and within the canyon rims). Areas that do not meet both of these criteria will be open to leasing with minor constraints (timing limitations, controlled surface use, lease notices) as indicated on Map 2-31.</li> <li>OHV use would be limited to designated routes</li> <li>Managed as VRM Class II and III as indicated on Map 2-5</li> <li>Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special conditions</li> <li>Recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry.</li> </ul>
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	Oil and gas development would be permitted after cultural resource inventories have been completed, in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.	Oil and gas development would not be permitted within 100 feet of inventoried cultural resources, after cultural resource inventories have been completed, in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.	Oil and gas development would not be permitted within 100 feet of inventoried cultural resources, after cultural resource inventories have been completed, in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.	Oil and gas development would not be permitted within 100 feet of inventoried cultural resources, after cultural resource inventories have been completed in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. An exception may be granted by the AO if appropriate mitigation can be accomplished.
<b>Price River—Considered for Cultural, Scenic, Wildlife, and Riparian Resource Values</b>				
<del>Note: Values considered in the Price River proposed ACEC are being addressed in the proposals for Beckwith Plateau Middle Mountain ACEC, Lower Green River ACEC, and Lower Price River ACECs. Proposed area for the Price River ACEC also overlaps the Cedar Mountain proposed ACEC. Note: This ACEC did not meet R &amp; I (see appendix 26) and should not have been included in the draft EIS.</del>				
<b>Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry—Proposed for Paleontologic Resource Value</b>				
The existing 80-acre NNL would be managed as an SRMA under existing management prescriptions. Boundaries of the NNL would remain in alignment.	<p>The “Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC” would be managed for protection of the paleontologic resources in the area as indicated on Map 2-43. (767 acres)</p> <p>The ACEC would be managed with the following special management prescriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed to all public access without authorization</li> <li>• Note: Paid use fee would be considered</li> </ul>	<p>The “Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC” would be managed for protection of the paleontologic resources in the area as indicated on Map 2-44, 2-45, 2-46. (767 acres)</p> <p>The ACEC would be managed with the following special management prescriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed to all public access without authorization. Note: Paid use fee would be considered authorization</li> <li>• Mountain bikes and OHV use to be allowed on designated routes</li> <li>• Camping would not be allowed</li> <li>• The construction of facilities to be allowed for research, visitor safety, convenience, resource interpretation, and comfort</li> <li><del>• Managed as areas closed to leasing for oil and gas within the NNL boundary; managed as areas open to leasing, subject to minor constraints (timing limitations, controlled surface use, lease notices), for oil and gas leasing outside the NNL boundary Deleted because two conflicting oil and gas restriction.</del></li> <li>• Closed to disposal of mineral materials</li> <li>• The 767 acre ACEC would be recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry</li> <li>• Collection of nonrenewable resources such as fossils, rocks, mineral specimens, common invertebrate fossils, semiprecious gemstones, petrified wood, and mineral</li> </ul>		



	<p>authorization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mountain bikes and OHV use would be allowed on designated routes</li> <li>• Camping would not be allowed</li> <li>• The construction of facilities would be allowed for research, visitor safety, convenience, resource interpretation, and comfort</li> <li>• Managed as areas closed to leasing for oil and gas within the NNL boundary. Managed as areas open to leasing, subject to minor constraints (timing limitations, controlled surface use, lease notices), for oil and gas leasing outside the NNL boundary</li> <li>• Closed to disposal of mineral materials</li> <li>• The 767-acre ACEC would be recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry</li> <li>• Collection of nonrenewable resources such as fossils, rocks, mineral specimens,</li> </ul>	<p>materials would not be allowed, per 43 CFR 8365.1-5.b.2-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiking to be allowed only on developed interpretive trails; hiking off trails to be allowed for guided tours offered by BLM staff</li> <li>• Managed as closed to leasing for oil and gas within the NNL boundary. Managed as no surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing outside the NNL boundary and within the ACEC.</li> </ul>
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	common invertebrate fossils, semiprecious gemstones, petrified wood, and mineral materials would not be allowed, per 43 CFR 8365.1-5.b.2-4.			
<b>Gordon Creek—Proposed for Cultural and Wildlife Resource Values</b>				
Gordon Creek—the proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.	The proposed area would not be designated as an ACEC.	The proposed area would not be designated as an ACEC.	<p>The “Gordon Creek ACEC” would be designated for protection of cultural resource values. The ACEC boundary is indicated on Map 2-45. Special management for protection of the cultural resource values includes—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed area to be closed to OHV use</li> <li>• Managed as areas closed to leasing for oil and gas</li> <li>• Closed to disposal of mineral materials</li> <li>• Recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry</li> <li>• Livestock grazing would not be allowed</li> <li>• Excavation and data recovery of the entire proposed area would be required before any surface-disturbing activities could occur (e.g., site-by-site</li> </ul>	Gordon Creek—the proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.

			excavation and data recovery would not be allowed).	
<b>Heritage Sites—Proposed for Historic Resource Value</b>				
Heritage Sites—the proposed areas would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.	The sites would not be managed as an ACEC.	The sites would not be managed as an ACEC.	<p>The “Heritage Sites ACEC” would be designated for protection of historic resource values. Note: Proposed area includes Wilsonville, Sheperds End, Smith Cabin, Hunt Cabin, Copper Globe, Temple Mountain, and Swasey Cabin.</p> <p>Points included as a part of this ACEC are included in Map 2-45. Special management prescriptions for protection of these resources include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managed as no surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing</li> <li>• Proposed for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry</li> <li>• Closed to disposal of mineral materials</li> <li>• Excluded from ROW grants</li> <li>• Excluded from land treatments and range improvements except for watershed control structures where these would protect historic</li> </ul>	<p>The “Heritage Sites ACEC” would be designated for protection of historic resource values. Note: Proposed area includes Wilsonville, Sheperds End, Smith Cabin, Hunt Cabin, Copper Globe, Temple Mountain, and Swasey Cabin.</p> <p>Points included as a part of this ACEC are included in Map 2-46 Special management prescriptions for protection of these resources includes—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managed as no surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing</li> <li>• Proposed for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry</li> <li>• Closed to disposal of mineral materials</li> <li>• Excluded from ROW grants</li> <li>• Excluded from land treatments and range improvements except for watershed control structures where these would protect historic</li> </ul>

			values • Managed as VRM Class II.	values • Managed as VRM Class II.
<b>Uranium Mining Districts</b> <b>Tidwell Draw, Hidden Splendor, Little Susan Mine, and Lucky Strike Mine—Proposed for Protection of Cultural Resource Values</b>				
<p>The proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.</p>	<p>The proposed area would not be managed as an ACEC.</p>	<p>The proposed area would not be managed as an ACEC.</p>	<p>The “Uranium Mining Districts ACEC” would be identified. This would include Tidwell Draw, Hidden Splendor, Little Susan Mine, and Lucky Strike Mine areas as indicated on Map 2-45.</p> <p>The ACEC would be managed with the following special management prescriptions—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firewood collection not allowed in the ACEC</li> <li>• Excluded from livestock use</li> <li>• Managed as no surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing</li> <li>• Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special conditions</li> <li>• Open to mineral entry with plans of operations</li> <li>• No historic structures to be disturbed until the historic features have been recorded and oral</li> </ul>	<p>The “Uranium Mining Districts ACEC” would be identified. This would include Tidwell Draw, Hidden Splendor, Little Susan Mine, and Lucky Strike Mine areas as indicated on Map 2-46.</p> <p>The ACEC would be managed with the following special management prescriptions—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firewood collection not allowed in the ACEC;</li> <li>• Excluded from livestock use</li> <li>• Managed as no surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing</li> <li>• Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special conditions</li> <li>• Open to mineral entry with plans of operations</li> <li>• No historic structures to be disturbed until the historic features have been recorded and oral</li> </ul>

			history has been conducted.	history has been conducted.
Desolation Canyon – Proposed for Scenic, and Cultural Resource Values, and Ecological Processes				
The proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.	The area would not be managed as an ACEC.	The “Desolation Canyon ACEC” (Map 2-45) would be managed with the following special management prescriptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Designated as closed to OHV use</li><li>• Excluded from ROW grants</li><li>• The area would be mostly closed to oil and gas leasing with some areas open to leasing subject to major constraints (NSO) as indicated on Map 2-30</li><li>• The area would be mostly closed to disposal of mineral materials as indicated on Map 2-40</li></ul>	Same as the No Action Alternative.	
White-Tailed Prairie Dog – Proposed for Wildlife Resource Values				
The proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.	The area would not be managed as an ACEC ..	The “White-Tailed Prairie Dog ACEC” (Map 2-45) would be managed with the following special management prescriptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OHV use would be limited to designated routes</li><li>• The area would be open</li></ul>	Same as the No Action Alternative.	

		<p>to oil and gas leasing subject to minor constraints (timing limitations, controlled surface use, lease notices) as indicated on Map 2-30)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special conditions as indicated on Map 2-40</li> <li>• Open to mineral entry with plans of operations as indicated on Map 2-35</li> </ul>	
<b>Mussentuchit Badlands – Proposed for Cultural Resource Values</b>			
The proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.	The area would not be managed as an ACEC.	<p>The Mussentuchit Badlands ACEC (Map 2-45) would be managed with the following special management prescriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area would be open to leasing, subject to minor constraints (timing limitations, controlled surface use, lease notices as indicated on Map 2-30</li> <li>• OHV use would be limited to designated routes</li> <li>• Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special</li> </ul>	Same as the No Action Alternative

		<p>conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open to mineral entry with plans of operations as indicated on Map 2-35</li> </ul>	
<b>Horseshoe Canyon –Proposed for Ecology Process, Scenic, Vegetation, and Cultural Resource Values</b>			
Horseshoe Canyon - the area would not be managed as an ACEC.	The area would not be managed as an ACEC.	The area would be incorporated into the Lower Green River ACEC	Same as the No Action Alternative.
<b>Lower Muddy Creek – Proposed for Scenic and Vegetation Resource Values</b>			
The proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.	The area would not be managed as an ACEC.	<p>The Lower Muddy Creek ACEC (Map 2-45) would be managed with the following management prescriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open to oil and gas leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO) as indicated on Map 2-30</li> <li>OHV use would be limited to designated routes</li> <li>Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special conditions</li> <li>Recommend the primitive ROS area for withdrawal from mineral entry as indicated on Map 2-35</li> <li>Manage as VRM class II</li> </ul>	Same as the No Action Alternative

## Chapter 3 of the Price Draft RMP/EIS and ACECs

*Chapter 3, as the description of the “Affected Environment,” provides an overview of the planning area and describes the existing situation for each of the resource programs. Chapter 3 of the Draft RMP / DEIS is changed to include a citation to the ACEC appendix for reference. Please see Chapter 3.4.2 below with changes highlighted in grey.*

### 3.4.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

There are currently 13 ACECs in the PFO (Map 2-42 of Chapter 2). The size of each area and the relevant and important values it is designated to protect are listed in Table 3-34.

**Table 3.34. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

ACEC	Acres	Relevant and Important Values
Big Flat Tops	285	Relict vegetation
Bowknot	1,087	Relict vegetation
Copper Globe	128	Mining
Dry Lake	22,258	Archaeological, geologic
I-70 Scenic	45,594	Scenic
Muddy Creek	28,778	Scenic, mining, riparian
Pictographs	7	Archaeological
San Rafael Canyon	54,102	Scenic
San Rafael Reef	84,018	Scenic, relict vegetation
Seager's Hole	7,918	Scenic
Sid's Mountain	61,380	Scenic
Swasey's Cabin	60	Historic ranching
Temple Mountain	2,444	Mining
TOTAL ACECs	308,059	

Source: Utah BLM.

Many areas in the PFO have been identified as having the required characteristics for ACEC designation (see Appendix 26 for a discussion of potential ACECs and their relevant and important values). These areas include significant and sensitive examples of prehistoric and historic artifacts. Areas to be considered for ACEC designation are subject to increased impacts from resource uses, such as recreation, mineral development, and grazing as use of the area has increased.



## Chapter 4

*Chapter 4 (Environmental Consequences) analyzes the beneficial and adverse effects of each proposed management alternative. The inclusion of the four ACECs which were inadvertently omitted from the Draft RMP / EIS into Chapter 4 involves additional impact analysis and some altered acreage figures which denote potential impacts. Please see Chapter 4, page 4-485, for the pertinent changes made to impact analysis for Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns, with changes highlighted in grey. Note that changes in this Chapter are made to include consideration of the four ACECs and do not involve changes in impact analysis for the other existing and potential ACECs.*

### AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

#### Assumptions

With all alternatives, relevant and important values of potential and existing ACECs would benefit from the special management attention they would receive, including development of comprehensive, integrated activity plans in some cases. The plans would address specific management actions for resources and resource uses, with a focus on protection of relevant and important values, complementary to the goals and objectives of each ACEC.

However, in alternatives where some potential ACECs would not be identified, the relevant and important values of these areas may be at some risk of irreparable damage during the life of the plan, depending upon the specific resource use categories or other actions proposed in the alternative.

Special management for identified relevant and important values is designed to protect those values and prevent irreparable harm.

#### Significance Criteria

- Irreparable damage to the relevant and important values of existing or potential ACECs is considered significant.

#### Methods of Analysis

Analysis of impacts to potential areas of critical environmental concern by examining RMP decisions for all actions for any resource or resource use that would occur within potential areas and could cause irreparable damage to identified relevant and important values. 43 CFR 1610.7-2 states that there are 2 criteria that must be met to designate an ACEC. The "relevance" criteria requires a value (historic, cultural or scenic) a resource (fish or wildlife), a natural system or process, or a natural hazard. Each category must have "substantial significance and values" which make it "important".

## AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

### Common to All Alternatives

#### Decision Background

FLPMA directs BLM to identify ACECs as public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards (see Appendix 26). During the scoping process the public was invited to nominate ACEC areas. Special management is applied to protect the relevant and important values identified in existing and proposed ACECs. ACECs are not managed as wilderness area.

#### Impact Analysis

### *RESOURCES*

#### Impacts to Air Quality

No significant impact.

#### Impacts to Soil, Water and Riparian

Management of areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) would also protect soil, water, and riparian/wetland resources.

Soil, water, and riparian resources within ACEC boundaries would receive significant long-term protection and provide valuable benefits to the resources where they occur. These benefits would result from restrictions to surface-disturbing occupancy, exclusion of livestock grazing, and closing of these areas to OHV activities.

#### Impacts to Vegetation Resources

Designating and managing areas as ACECs where special management would be required would improve the long-term quality, composition, and health of vegetation communities in those areas. Limiting OHV travel to designated routes would improve vegetation by reducing surface disturbance. Closure of the ACEC to oil and gas leasing and withdrawal from locatable mineral entry would improve the integrity of vegetation. Enhanced integrity would improve the connectivity of vegetation and reduce opportunity for noxious weed and other invasive plant species establishment.

#### Impacts to Cultural Resources

No significant impact.

#### Impacts to Paleontology Resources

Avoidance of surface-disturbing activities in the Seger's Hole ACEC would have an indirect impact. Closures to fluid and mineral materials development and restrictions on other land uses would protect the paleontological resources from surface disturbance. In addition, the potential for locality identification and recordation by data recovery associated with development would be reduced.

<b>AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN</b> <b>Common to All Alternatives</b>
<p><b>Impacts to Visual Resources</b></p> <p>Prescriptions for VRM classification are identified for most ACECs. Impacts of ACEC prescriptions to visual resources are included in the discussion of VRM impacts to VRM in the Common to All Alternatives section.</p>
<p><b>Impacts to Special Status Species</b></p> <p>No significant impact.</p>
<p><b>Impacts to Fish and Wildlife</b></p> <p>Currently 13 ACECs exist in the PFO (see Map 2-42). ACECs exist to provide special management attention to relevant and important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. The provisions implemented to protect these resources provide ancillary benefit to fish and wildlife species and their habitats. By preventing irreparable damage to these resources, habitat in and around ACECS is also protected from surface-disturbing activities and excessive human presence.</p>
<p><b>Impacts to Wild Horses and Burros</b></p> <p>No significant impact.</p>
<p><b>Impacts to Fire and Fuels Management</b></p> <p>There would be no impacts to fire and fuels management specific to ACEC management unless management direction for a given ACEC would specify restrictions on wildland fire suppression or on vegetation/range treatments.</p>
<p><i>Resource Uses</i></p>
<p><b>Impacts to Forest and Woodlands</b></p> <p>No significant impact.</p>
<p><b>Impacts to Livestock</b></p> <p>Protection of relevant and important values within ACECs may be restricted when range improvements occur and by the type of range improvement allowed.</p>
<p><b>Impacts to Recreation</b></p> <p>Continuing to manage Seger's Hole ACEC as limited to designated routes for OHV use would maintain opportunities for motorized recreation.</p>

## AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

### Common to All Alternatives

#### Impacts to Lands and Realty

Without appropriate mitigation measures, the presence of ACECs might preclude the ability to permit land tenure actions within these boundaries. The placement of ROWs would be limited to not impact the values for which the ACECs were established.

#### Impacts to Minerals and Energy

##### – ***Leasable Minerals***

Oil and Gas. Seger's Hole ACEC (7,379 acres) would be open to leasing, subject to major constraints (no surface occupancy), and managed as VRM Class I. The VRM Class I designation would restrict the placement of oil and gas facilities in Seger's Hole ACEC and could require directional drilling to extract hydrocarbon resources below this area.

Coal. No impacts would be anticipated to coal from ACEC management actions.

##### – ***Locatable Minerals***

Seger's Hole ACEC (7,379 acres) would be open to mineral entry with plans of operations. This action could lead to a delay in development, increased costs to the proponent, and/or relocation of the resource development activity.

##### – ***Mineral Materials***

Seger's Hole ACEC (7,379 acres) would be closed to disposal of mineral materials, which would prohibit mineral material activities. If alternative mineral material deposits were to exist nearby in areas open to the disposal of mineral materials, this action would relocate mineral materials resource development activities.

#### *Special Designations*

#### Impacts to Wilderness Study Areas

No significant impact.

#### Impacts to Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Avoidance of surface-disturbing activities in the Seger's Hole ACEC would have an indirect impact. Closures to fluid and mineral materials development and restrictions on other land uses would preserve the cultural resources in place. In addition, the potential for site identification and recordation by data recovery associated with development would be reduced.

#### Impacts to Wild and Scenic Rivers

No significant impact.

#### *Support*

<b>AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN</b> <b>Common to All Alternatives</b>
Impacts to Transportation and Motorized Access No significant impact.
Impacts to Hazardous Materials and Waste No significant impact.

The following table provided in Chapter 4 pages 4-491 to 4-516 of the Price Draft RMP/EIS restates the 'Decision Background' from which the impact analysis derives. The four omitted potential ACECs need to be added to the end of the matrix with additions highlighted in grey and the complete table is not reproduced.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN				
Potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern				
No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Decision Background				
Decisions				
DESOLATION CANYON –SCENIC, CULTURAL, AND ECOLOGICAL				
Decision Background				
Desolation Canyon is Utah's deepest canyon. It is nationally and internationally known and significant for its diverse values. The resources of Desolation Canyon are fragile and vulnerable to change. While Fremont sites are the most prolific, Archaic through Ute sites are found. The landscape of the canyon is a historic feature. It is the least changed landscape of all the Green and Colorado River segments explored by John Wesley Powell in 1869. The Desolation WSA protects most of the ACEC from any new threats. There is some from valid existing rights.				
Decisions				
The proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.	The area would not be managed as an ACEC.	The "Desolation Canyon ACEC" (Map 2-45) would be managed with the following special management prescriptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated as closed to OHV use</li> <li>Excluded from ROW grants</li> <li>The area would be mostly closed to oil and gas leasing with some areas open to leasing subject to major constraints (NSO) as</li> </ul>	Same as the No Action Alternative.	

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN				
Potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern				
No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
			<p>indicated on Map 2-30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The area would be mostly closed to disposal of mineral materials as indicated on Map 2-40</li> </ul>	
<b>WHITE-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG - WILDLIFE</b>				
<b>Decision Background</b>				
<p>The Castle Valley Complex provides habitat for the white-tailed prairie dog, a BLM Utah Sensitive Species. The dog towns create a habitat feature for other sensitive species such as the burrowing owl, long-billed curlew, and the “endangered” black-footed ferret. No threats have been identified to the relevant and important values of the potential ACEC.</p>				
<b>Decisions</b>				
<p>The proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention..</p>	<p>The area would not be managed as an ACEC ..</p>		<p>The “White-Tailed Prairie Dog ACEC” (Map 2-45) would be managed with the following special management prescriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OHV use would be limited to designated routes</li> <li>The area would be open to oil and gas leasing subject to minor constraints (timing limitations, controlled surface use, lease notices) as indicated on Map 2-30)</li> </ul>	<p>Same as the No Action Alternative.</p>

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN				
Potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern				
No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special conditions as indicated on Map 2-40</li> <li>Open to mineral entry with plans of operations as indicated on Map 2-35</li> </ul>	
<b>MUSSENTUCHIT BADLANDS – CULTURAL</b>				
<b>Decision Background</b>				
<p>The area also contains extensive lithic scatter sites indicating use by past cultures. Much of the area was once covered by a deposit of red white and gray variegated chert directly overlain with a thick layer of basalt. As these badlands have been dissected by erosion the chert beds have been exposed. The prehistoric quarrying areas are important for the study of local prehistoric economies and the stone material is distinctive enough to be studied as part of regional trading systems. Resources in this area are vulnerable to adverse changes from surface-disturbing activities associated with energy and mineral development and human activity including OHV recreation use.</p>				
<b>Decisions</b>				
The proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.	The area would not be managed as an ACEC.		<p>The Mussentuchit Badlands ACEC (Map 2-45) would be managed with the following special management prescriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The area would be open to leasing, subject to minor constraints (timing limitations, controlled surface use, lease notices as indicated on Map 2-30</li> </ul>	Same as the No Action Alternative



AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN				
Potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern				
No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OHV use would be limited to designated routes</li> <li>• Open to disposal of mineral materials subject to special conditions</li> <li>• Open to mineral entry with plans of operations as indicated on Map 2-35</li> </ul>	
LOWER MUDDY CREEK- SCENIC AND VEGETATION				
Decision Background				
<p>The landscape within the potential Lower Muddy Creek ACEC contains vibrant multiple colored visuals intermingled with badland topography. These scenic values are of exceptional quality and the area is Class A scenery. Because of its proximity to Goblin State Park some of the rare “goblins” can also be found. The scenery attracts people from outside the area and is therefore more than locally significant. There are documented occurrences of the three threatened, endangered or sensitive plants with at least one endemic in Emery County. Resources in this area are vulnerable to adverse changes from surface-disturbing activities associated with energy and mineral development and human activity including OHV recreation use.</p>				
Decisions				
The proposed area would continue to be managed for multiple use without special management attention.	The area would not be managed as an ACEC.		<p>The Lower Muddy Creek ACEC (Map 2-45) would be managed with the following management prescriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open to oil and gas leasing, subject to major constraints (NSO) as indicated on Map 2-30</li> <li>• OHV use would be limited to designated routes</li> <li>• Open to disposal of mineral materials subject</li> </ul>	Same as the No Action Alternative

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN				
Potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern				
No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
			<p>to special conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend the primitive ROS area for withdrawal from mineral entry as indicated on Map 2-35</li> <li>Manage as VRM class II</li> </ul>	

The following table, found in the Draft RMP/EIS on pages 4-517 to 4-529, is amended to incorporate impact analysis of the 4 potential ACECs for Alternative C. These changes are highlighted in grey below.

Impact Analysis				
RESOURCES				
No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Impacts to Air Quality No significant impact.	Impacts to Air Quality No significant impact.	Impacts to Air Quality No significant impact.	Impacts to Air Quality No significant impact.	Impacts to Air Quality No significant impact.
Impacts to Soil, Water and Riparian No significant impact.	Impacts to Soil, Water and Riparian No significant impact.	Impacts to Soil, Water and Riparian No significant impact.	Impacts to Soil, Water and Riparian No significant impact.	Impacts to Soil, Water and Riparian No significant impact.
<b>Impacts to Vegetation Resources</b> Current vegetation conditions would be maintained by existing ACEC management actions to livestock use and OHV recreation. Closing 1,509 acres of land within ACEC to livestock grazing to protect relict vegetation and cultural and historic sites may increase the percent cover by livestock preferred plant species. Indirectly, managing Big Flat Tops and Bowknot Bend ACECs to retain relict vegetation on 1,279 acres provides a baseline for scientific research and monitoring. Closing and limiting 272,842 acres to OHV use reduces surface	<b>Impacts to Vegetation Resources</b> Altering the management of existing ACECs but not designating additional ACEC impacts vegetation by reducing the area of relict vegetation available for monitoring and research. Managing 170 acres of the PFO to retain relict vegetation provides a baseline for scientific research and monitoring. Closing and limiting areas to OHV recreation use reduces surface disturbance and vegetation crushed by vehicle treads which improves vegetation integrity. Limiting surface disturbance reduces the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plant species	<b>Impacts to Vegetation Resources</b> Altering the management of existing ACECs but not designating additional ACEC impacts vegetation by reducing the area of relict vegetation available for monitoring and research. Managing 163 acres of the PFO to retain relict vegetation provides a baseline for scientific research and monitoring. Closing and limiting areas to OHV recreation use reduces surface disturbance and vegetation crushed by vehicle treads which improves vegetation integrity. Limiting surface disturbance reduces the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plant species	<b>Impacts to Vegetation Resources</b> Altering the management of ACEC but not designating additional ACEC impacts vegetation by reducing the area of relict vegetation available for monitoring and research. Managing areas of the PFO to retain relict vegetation provides a baseline for scientific research and monitoring. Closing and limiting areas to OHV use reduces surface disturbance and vegetation crushed by vehicle treads which improves vegetation integrity. Table 4-19 shows the ACEC acres to which these management actions apply. Compared to Table 4-16, Acres Restrictions	<b>Impacts to Vegetation Resources</b> Altering the management of ACEC but not designating additional ACEC impacts vegetation by reducing the area of relict vegetation available for monitoring and research. Managing areas of the PFO to retain relict vegetation provides a baseline for scientific research and monitoring. Closing and limiting areas to OHV use reduces surface disturbance and vegetation crushed by vehicle treads, thereby improving vegetation integrity. Table 4-20 shows the ACEC acres to which these management actions apply.

Impact Analysis				
<i>RESOURCES</i>				
No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
disturbance and vegetation crushed by vehicle treads. This preserves vegetation integrity on about 11 percent of BLM lands. Table 4-16 shows the ACECs to which these management actions apply.	infestations. Table 4-17 shows the ACEC acres to which these management actions apply. Compared to Table 4-16, Acres Restrictions to Livestock Grazing and OHV Use in ACECs – No Action Alternative, this alternative contains 1,339 more acres open for livestock grazing, 1,037 acres are not closed to for OHV recreation use, and 21,354 more acres are open for limited OHV recreation use.	infestations. Table 4-18 shows the ACEC acres to which these management actions apply. Compared to Table 4-16, Acres Restrictions to Livestock Grazing and OHV Use in ACECs – No Action Alternative, this alternative contains 1,346 more acres open for livestock grazing. Under this alternative, 64,182 additional acres are closed to OHV recreation use and 184,000 acres allow limited OHV recreation use.	to Livestock Grazing and OHV Use in ACECs – No Action Alternative, this alternative closes 43,801 more acres to livestock grazing, closes 306,714 more acres to OHV recreation use, and opens 1,667 more acres for limited OHV recreation use.	
<p><b>Impacts to Cultural Resources</b></p> <p>Restrictions on surface-disturbing actions within the ACECs would preserve cultural resources in place. Restricted activities include oil and gas leasing (either closed or no surface occupancy), mineral material and locatable minerals (closures, withdrawals, requiring plans of operation), right-of-way establishment (exclusion or avoidance), woodland product harvest (area closures), land treatments (area closures), and OHV use (either closed or limited to designated routes). Cultural resources would be</p>	<p><b>Impacts to Cultural Resources</b></p> <p>Impacts would be similar to those identified in the No Action Alternative. The differences with regard to cultural resource impacts are the acres of ACECs designated. Cultural resources would be preserved in place on a total of approximately 195,400 acres (7.8 percent of PFO total) by limiting surface-disturbing activities. ACECs designated to preserve cultural resources specifically include Copper Globe (128 acres), Dry Lake Archaeological District (17,994 acres), Muddy Creek (25,751</p>	<p><b>Impacts to Cultural Resources</b></p> <p>Impacts would be similar to those identified in Alternative 1. The differences with regard to cultural resource impacts are the acres of ACECs designated. Cultural resources would be preserved in place on a total of approximately 521,800 acres (21 percent of PFO total) ACECs designated to preserve cultural resources specifically include Copper Globe (128 acres), Dry Lake Archaeological District (14,244 acres), Muddy Creek (25,751 acres), Rock Art (16,048 acres), Lower Green River</p>	<p><b>Impacts to Cultural Resources</b></p> <p>Impacts would be similar to those identified in Alternative 1. The differences with regard to cultural resource impacts are the acres of ACECs designated. Cultural resources would be preserved in place on a total of more than 631,600 acres (25 percent of PFO total). ACECs designated to specifically preserve cultural resources include Dry Lake Archaeological District (14,244 acres), Muddy Creek (25,119 acres), Rock Art (16,048 acres), Lower Green River (37,225), Temple-Cottonwood</p>	<p><b>Impacts to Cultural Resources</b></p> <p>Impacts would be similar to those identified in Alternative 1. The differences with regard to cultural resource impacts are the acres of ACECs designated. Cultural resources would be preserved in place on approximately 461,000 acres (18.6 percent of PFO total). ACECs designated to specifically preserve cultural resources include Dry Lake Archaeological District (17,996 acres), Muddy Creek (25,119 acres), Rock Art (16,048 acres), Range Creek (65,504 acres), Nine Mile Canyon (48,838 acres), Heritage Sites</p>

Impact Analysis				
RESOURCES				
No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p>preserved in place in a total of approximately 272,520 acres (11 percent of PFO total). ACECs designated to preserve cultural resources specifically include Copper Globe (128 acres), Dry Lake Archaeological District (17,994 acres), Muddy Creek (25,751 acres), Pictographs/Rock Art (43 acres), Swasey's Cabin (60 acres), and Temple Mountain (2,442 acres). In addition to preclusion of surface-disturbing activities, these ACEC designations may encourage more concentrated recreation. Impacts from recreation would be mitigated by data recovery and site design. As a result, there would be no significant impacts from the designation of ACECs in this alternative. Some cultural resource sites and areas need special management but are not designated ACECs in this alternative. These sites/areas may not be preserved. Many of these areas have public use values that may not be preserved.</p>	<p>acres), and Pictographs/Rock Art (46,048 acres). Impacts related to designation of these ACECs would be the same as those identified in the No Action Alternative. Some cultural resource sites and areas need special management but are not designated ACECs in this alternative. These sites/areas may not be preserved. Many of these areas have public use values that may not be preserved.</p>	<p>(38,321 acres), Range Creek (65,504 acres), and Nine Mile Canyon (48,836 acres). Impacts related to designation of these ACECs would be the same as those identified in the No Action Alternative. Some cultural resource sites and areas need special management but are not designated ACECs in this alternative. These sites/areas may not be preserved. Many of these areas have public use values that may not be preserved.</p>	<p>Dugout Wash (72,604 acres), Range Creek (65,504 acres), Nine Mile Canyon (49,778 acres), Gordon Creek (2,599 acres), Heritage Sites (2,865 acres), and Uranium Mining Districts (4,164 acres), Desolation Canyon (159,000 acres), Mussentuchit Badlands (58,000 acres). In all, ACECs designated wholly or partially to preserve cultural resources comprise approximately 500,000 acres in this alternative, more than 60 percent of the acreage designated as ACECs in the PFO. Impacts related to designation of these ACECs would be the same as those identified in Alternative 1.</p>	<p>(2,863 acres), and Uranium Mining Districts (4,167 acres). In all, ACECs designated wholly or partially to preserve cultural resources comprise approximately 180,500 acres in this alternative, more than 39 percent of the acreage designated as ACECs in the PFO. Impacts related to designation of these ACECs would be the same as those identified in Alternative 1. Some cultural resource sites and areas need special management but are not designated ACECs in this alternative. These sites/areas may not be preserved. Many of these areas have public use values that may not be preserved.</p>
<p>Impacts to Paleontology Resources Restrictions on surface-</p>	<p>Impacts to Paleontology Resources Impacts would be similar to</p>	<p>Impacts to Paleontology Resources Impacts would be similar to</p>	<p>Impacts to Paleontology Resources Impacts would be similar to</p>	<p>Impacts to Paleontology Resources Impacts would be similar to</p>

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disturbing actions within the ACECs would protect paleontological resources in place. Restricted activities include oil and gas leasing (either closed or no surface occupancy), mineral material and locatable minerals (closures, withdrawals, requiring plans of operation), right-of-way establishment (exclusion or avoidance), woodland product harvest (area closures), land treatments (area closures), and OHV use (either closed or limited to designated routes). Paleontological resources would be protected in place in a total of approximately 272,520 acres.	those identified in Alternative 1. The differences with regard to paleontological resource impacts are the acres of ACECs designated. Paleontological resources would be protected from surface disturbance on a total of approximately 195,400 acres (7.8 percent of PFO total). One ACEC is designated specifically to protect and use paleontological resources. Management of Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC (765 acres) would protect the paleontological values in and adjacent to the existing quarry, maintain their access to the public, and provide for the continued scientific study of these paleontological resources.	those identified in Alternative 1. The differences with regard to paleontological resource impacts are the acres of ACECs designated. Paleontological resources would be protected from surface disturbance on a total of approximately 521,800 acres (21 percent of PFO total). Impacts from management of Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC (765 acres) would be the same as those identified in Alternative A.	those identified in Alternative 1. The differences with regard to paleontological resource impacts are the acres of ACECs designated. Paleontological resources would be protected from surface disturbance on a total of more than 631,600 acres (25 percent of PFO total). Impacts from management of Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC (765 acres) would be the same as those identified in Alternative A.	those identified in Alternative 1. The differences in regard to paleontological resource impacts are the acres of ACECs designated. Paleontological resources would be protected from surface disturbance on approximately 461,000 acres (18.6 percent of PFO total). Impacts from management of Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC (765 acres) would be the same as those identified in Alternative A.
<b>Impacts to Visual Resources</b> No significant impact.	<b>Impacts to Visual Resources</b> No significant impact.	<b>Impacts to Visual Resources</b> No significant impact.	<b>Impacts to Visual Resources</b> No significant impact.	<b>Impacts to Visual Resources</b> No significant impact.
<b>Impacts to Special Status Species</b> Special management applied to ACECs established for other resource values indirectly maintains Special Status	<b>Impacts to Special Status Species</b> Special management applied to ACECs established for other resource values indirectly improves Special Status	<b>Impacts to Special Status Species</b> Special management applied to ACECs established for other resource values indirectly improves Special Status	<b>Impacts to Special Status Species</b> The establishment of the White-Tailed Prairie Dog ACEC (9,000 acres) would protect this species and its	<b>Impacts to Special Status Species</b> Special management applied to ACECs established for other resource values indirectly improves Special Status

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Species habitat in those areas by reducing surface disturbance. Approximately 272,520 acres (about 11 percent) of BLM land is managed as an ACEC, and Map 2-42 shows the location of existing ACECs and acres.	Species habitat in those areas by reducing surface disturbance. Approximately 195,417 acres (about 8 percent) of BLM land is managed as an ACEC, and Map 2-43 shows the location of existing ACECs and acres.	Species habitat in those areas by reducing surface disturbance. Approximately 521,843 acres (about 21 percent) of BLM land is managed as an ACEC, and Map 2-44 shows the location of existing ACECs and acres.	habitat as well as the habitat and food source for other sensitive species. Special management applied to ACECs established for other resource values indirectly improves Special Status Species habitat in those areas by reducing surface disturbance. Approximately 880,000 acres (about 35 percent) of BLM land is managed as an ACEC, and Map 2-45 shows the location of ACECs and acres for this alternative.	Species habitat in those areas by reducing surface disturbance. Approximately 460,954 acres (about 18 percent) of BLM land is managed as an ACEC, and Map 2-46 shows the location of existing ACECs and acres.
Impacts to Fish and Wildlife No significant impact.	Impacts to Fish and Wildlife No significant impact.	Impacts to Fish and Wildlife No significant impact.	Impacts to Fish and Wildlife No significant impact.	Impacts to Fish and Wildlife No significant impact.
Impacts to Wild Horses and Burros No significant impact.	Impacts to Wild Horses and Burros No significant impact.	Impacts to Wild Horses and Burros No significant impact.	Impacts to Wild Horses and Burros No significant impact.	Impacts to Wild Horses and Burros No significant impact.
Impacts to Fire and Fuels Management Restrictions to suppression and fuels treatments within ACECs are identified in Table 4-21.	Impacts to Fire and Fuels Management Restrictions to suppression and fuels treatments within ACECs are identified in Table 4-22.	Impacts to Fire and Fuels Management Restrictions to suppression and fuels treatments within ACECs are identified in Table 4-23.	Impacts to Fire and Fuels Management Restrictions to suppression and fuels treatments within ACECs are identified in Table 4-24.	Impacts to Fire and Fuels Management Restrictions to suppression and fuels treatments within ACECs are identified in Table 4-25.
Impacts to Forest and	Impacts to Forest and	Impacts to Forest and	Impacts to Forest and	Impacts to Forest and

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Woodlands No significant impact.	Woodlands No significant impact.	Woodlands No significant impact.	Woodlands No significant impact.	Woodlands No significant impact.
<b>Impacts to Livestock</b> Closure of five ACECs to livestock grazing is not anticipated to impact livestock grazing. Table 2.16 (Alternatives Summary) describes the management decision regarding each ACEC. The types and methods of range improvements may be altered in ACECs open to livestock grazing, but this is not anticipated to change permitted use levels. Table 4-26 lists each ACEC where livestock grazing is not permitted. Livestock grazing is not permitted on 1,598 acres within the five ACECs.	<b>Impacts to Livestock</b> Closure of two ACECs to livestock grazing is not anticipated to impact livestock grazing. Table 2.16 (Alternatives Summary) describes the management decision regarding each ACEC. The types and methods of range improvements may be altered in ACECs open to livestock grazing, but this is not anticipated to change permitted use levels. Table 4-27 lists each ACEC where livestock grazing is not permitted and acres. Livestock grazing is not permitted on 170 acres within the two ACECs.	<b>Impacts to Livestock</b> Closure of two ACECs to livestock grazing is not anticipated to impact livestock grazing. Table 2.16 (Alternatives Summary) describes the management decision regarding each ACEC. The types and methods of range improvements may be altered in ACECs open to livestock grazing, but this is not anticipated to change permitted use levels. Table 4-28 lists each ACEC where livestock grazing is not permitted and acres. Livestock grazing is not permitted on 170 acres within the two ACECs.	<b>Impacts to Livestock</b> Closure of six ACECs to livestock grazing is not anticipated to impact livestock grazing. Table 2.16 (Alternatives Summary) describes the management decision regarding each ACEC. The types and methods of range improvements may be altered in ACECs open to livestock grazing, but this is not anticipated to change permitted use levels. Table 4-29 lists each ACEC where livestock grazing is not permitted and acres. Livestock grazing under this alternative is not permitted on 45,437 acres within the six ACECs.	<b>Impacts to Livestock</b> Closure of four ACECs to livestock grazing is not anticipated to impact livestock grazing. Table 2.16 (Alternatives Summary) describes the management decision regarding each ACEC. The types and methods of range improvements may be altered in ACECs open to livestock grazing, but this is not anticipated to change permitted use levels. Table 4-30 lists each ACEC where livestock grazing is not permitted and acres. Livestock grazing is not permitted on 5,499 acres within the four ACECs.
<b>Impacts to Recreation</b> <i><b>Highway I-70 ACEC</b></i> Management of the Highway I-70 ACEC as VRM Class I would maintain opportunities for driving for pleasure.	<b>Impacts to Recreation</b> Impacts would be the same as identified in Alternative 1 except that designating the 765-acre CLDQ ACEC would enhance recreation management in the area by removing conflicting uses, adding visitor facilities, and limiting types of recreation use	<b>Impacts to Recreation</b> <i><b>Highway I-70 ACEC</b></i> Maintaining the designation and expanding the east boundary of the ACEC to Highway 24 (approximately 40,831 acres) and managing the area as VRM Class I would maintain and enhance opportunities for scenic driving.	<b>Impacts to Recreation</b> <i><b>Highway I-70 ACEC</b></i> Maintaining the designation and expanding the east boundary of the ACEC to State Highway 6 (approximately 45,283 acres) and managing the area as VRM Class I would maintain and enhance opportunities for scenic driving.	<b>Impacts to Recreation</b> <i><b>Highway I-70 ACEC</b></i> Maintaining the designation and expanding the east boundary of the ACEC to Highway 24 (approximately 40,831 acres) and managing the area as VRM Class I would maintain and enhance opportunities for scenic driving.



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	to areas that would not impact paleontological resources.	<p><b><i>Lower Green River ACEC</i></b> Designating the 38,321-acre ACEC would protect and enhance recreation opportunities in and around the lower Green River corridor. Limiting OHV use to designated routes would maintain existing opportunities for motorized recreation without damage to natural resources in the area.</p> <p><b><i>Range Creek ACEC</i></b> Designating the 65,504-acre ACEC would greatly enhance and protect opportunities for dispersed, nonmotorized recreation in the Range Creek area by limiting recreation access to hiking and horseback use. Closure of the area to OHV use and mineral development would maintain existing natural resources and levels of surface disturbance important to primitive recreation experiences.</p> <p><b><i>CLDQ ACEC</i></b> Designating the 766-acre ACEC would enhance recreation management in the area by removing conflicting uses, adding visitor facilities, and limiting types of recreation use to areas that would not impact paleontological</p>	<p><b><i>Lower Green River ACEC</i></b> Designating the 73,225-acre ACEC would also protect natural resources important to recreation and enhance primitive recreation opportunities; however, the ACEC would be closed to OHV use, which would restrict motorized access to the area.</p> <p><b><i>Temple-Cottonwood Dugout Wash ACEC</i></b> Designating the 72,604-acre ACEC would protect natural and cultural resources important to recreation and enhance primitive recreation opportunities; however, the ACEC would be closed to OHV use, which would restrict motorized access to the area.</p> <p><b><i>Range Creek ACEC</i></b> Designating the 65,504-acre ACEC would preserve and protect opportunities for dispersed, non-motorized recreation in the Range Creek area by limiting recreation access to hiking and horseback use. Closure of the area to OHV use and mineral development would maintain existing natural resources and levels of surface disturbance important to primitive recreation experiences.</p>	<p><b><i>Rock Art ACEC</i></b> Prescriptions for the Rock Art ACEC (approximately 16,048 total acres) would maintain unique and important cultural resource recreation opportunities.</p> <p><b><i>San Rafael Canyon ACEC</i></b> Maintaining the San Rafael Canyon ACEC (approximately 86,696 acres) with mineral leasing categories described in Chapter 2 would protect and enhance existing opportunities.</p> <p><b><i>CLDQ ACEC</i></b> Designating the 766-acre ACEC would enhance recreation management in the area by removing conflicting uses, adding visitor facilities, and limiting types of recreation use to areas that would not impact paleontological resources.</p> <p><b><i>Heritage Sites ACEC</i></b> Closing approximately 2,863 acres to mineral development, lands and realty actions, and range improvements would maintain opportunities for heritage recreation by preserving the historic integrity of these sites.</p> <p><b><i>Uranium Mining Districts ACEC</i></b></p>

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		resources.	<p><b><i>CLDQ ACEC</i></b> Designating the 767-acre ACEC would enhance recreation management in the area by removing conflicting uses, adding visitor facilities, and limiting types of recreation use to areas that would not impact paleontological resources.</p> <p><b><i>Gordon Creek ACEC</i></b> Closing the area to OHV use would restrict motorized access to the area; however, it would also protect natural and cultural resources important to recreation and enhance primitive recreation opportunities. Because of the small size (approximately 2,600 acres) and narrow configuration of the ACEC, loss of motorized access would be a negligible effect.</p> <p><b><i>Heritage Sites ACEC</i></b> Closing the area to mineral development, lands and realty actions, and range improvements (approximately 2,865 total acres) would maintain opportunities for heritage recreation by preserving the historic integrity of these sites.</p> <p><b><i>Uranium Mining Districts ACEC</i></b></p>	No firewood collection would be allowed in the ACEC, which would preserve the integrity of historic structures and maintain opportunities for heritage recreation.

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			<p>No firewood collection would be allowed in the ACEC, which would preserve the integrity of historic structures and maintain opportunities for heritage recreation.</p> <p><b>Desolation Canyon ACEC</b> Designating the 159,000-acre ACEC would also protect scenic and natural resources important to recreation and enhance primitive recreation opportunities; however, the ACEC would be limited to designated routes for OHVs, which would restrict motorized access in the area.</p> <p><b>Mussentuchit Badlands ACEC</b> Designating the 58,000-acre ACEC would protect cultural resources important to recreation and enhance primitive recreation opportunities; however, the ACEC would be limited to designated routes for OHVs, which would restrict motorized access in the</p>	

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			<p>area.</p> <p><b>Lower Muddy Creek Canyon ACEC</b></p> <p>Designating the 30,000-acre ACEC would also protect scenic resources important to recreation and enhance primitive recreation opportunities; however, the ACEC would be limited to designated routes for OHVs, which would restrict motorized access in the area.</p>	
<p><b>Impacts to Lands and Realty</b></p> <p>Potential impacts from existing or proposed ACECs would usually be minimal and vary by management restrictions for each designated and proposed ACEC. There would be minimal impacts to the Lands and Realty Program because of the potential to mitigate such impacts. Upon designation as an ACEC, BLM would pursue the acquisition and/or exchange of state and private in-holdings. BLM would also determine case by case the feasibility of acquiring state</p>	<p><b>Impacts to Lands and Realty</b></p> <p>Those areas that have been identified as potential ACECs, would limit land tenure activities, and would cause significant impacts to the Lands and Realty Program where the ability to prescribe ROWs and other permitting activities are restricted. (Table 4-32)</p>	<p><b>Impacts to Lands and Realty</b></p> <p>Those areas that have been identified as potential ACECs would limit land tenure activities and would result in significant impacts to the Lands and Realty Program where the ability to prescribe ROWs and other permitting activities are restricted. (Table 4-33)</p>	<p><b>Impacts to Lands and Realty</b></p> <p>Those areas that have been identified as potential ACECs would limit land tenure activities and would limit the Lands and Realty Program as to where ROWs and other land tenure adjustments could be applied. Under this alternative the following proposed ACECs and their accompanying acreages would restrict land tenure activities. (Table 4-34)</p>	<p><b>Impacts to Lands and Realty</b></p> <p>Those areas that have been identified as potential ACECs would limit land tenure activities and would cause significant impacts to the Lands and Realty Program where the ability to prescribe ROWs and other permitting activities are restricted. Under this alternative the following proposed ACECs and their accompanying acreages would have restrictions on land tenure activities. (Table 4-35)</p>

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and private lands immediately adjacent to the ACEC if those lands would enhance the characteristics of the ACEC. (Table 4-31)				
<p>Impacts to Minerals and Energy</p> <p><b>Leasable Minerals</b> Oil and Gas. ACECs would not be located in the oil and gas development area (Map 2-42); therefore, ACEC management actions would not impact oil and gas exploration and development in this area. ACEC management actions associated with other ACECs under this alternative would not significantly impact oil and gas exploration and development because the ACECs would not be located in areas of reasonable and foreseeable oil and gas development. Coal. No reasonable and foreseeable coal development areas are within ACECs (Map 2-42); therefore impacts from ACEC management actions on coal activities would not be significant.</p> <p><b>Locatable Minerals</b> Big Flat Tops ACEC (192 acres), Bowknot Bend ACEC</p>	<p>Impacts to Minerals and Energy</p> <p><b>Leasable Minerals</b> Oil and Gas. See Alternative 1. ACECs would not be located in the oil and gas development area; therefore, impacts to oil and gas exploration and development from ACEC management actions would not be significant (Map 2-43). ACEC management actions associated with other ACECs under this alternative would not significantly impact oil and gas exploration and development because the ACECs would not be located in areas of reasonable and foreseeable oil and gas development. In the Nine Mile Canyon (approximately 50,000 acres), management actions would require cultural resource inventories before oil and gas development would be permitted, which could decrease operator costs and would minimize the potential</p>	<p>Impacts to Minerals and Energy</p> <p><b>Leasable Minerals</b> Oil and Gas. Under this alternative, Range Creek ACEC, Beckwith Plateau ACEC, and Nine Mile Canyon ACEC would be the only ACECs proposed in the oil and gas development area (Map 2-44). ACEC management actions associated with other ACECs under this alternative would not significantly impact oil and gas exploration and development because the ACECs would not be located in areas of reasonable and foreseeable oil and gas development. A total of 116,036 acres in Beckwith Plateau ACEC (50,532 acres) and Range Creek ACEC (65,504 acres) would be closed to leasing, which would render hydrocarbon resources under these areas unrecoverable. The Nine Mile Canyon ACEC (48,836 acres) would be open</p>	<p>Impacts to Minerals and Energy</p> <p><b>Leasable Minerals</b> Oil and Gas. Under this alternative, Range Creek ACEC, Beckwith Plateau ACEC, Nine Mile Canyon ACEC, and Desolation Canyon would be the only ACECs proposed in the oil and gas development area (Map 2-45). ACEC management actions associated with other ACECs under this alternative would not significantly impact oil and gas exploration and development because the ACECs would not be located in areas of reasonable and foreseeable oil and gas development. A total of 116,036 acres in Beckwith Plateau ACEC (50,532 acres) and Range Creek ACEC (65,504 acres) would be closed to leasing, which would deny access to hydrocarbon resources under these areas. The Desolation Canyon ACEC would be open to leasing</p>	<p>Impacts to Minerals and Energy</p> <p><b>Leasable Minerals</b> Oil and Gas. Range Creek ACEC and Nine Mile Canyon ACEC would be the only ACECs proposed in the oil and gas development area (Map 2-46). ACEC management actions associated with other ACECs under this alternative would not significantly impact oil and gas exploration and development because the ACECs would not be located in areas of reasonable and foreseeable oil and gas development. Range Creek ACEC (65,504 acres) would be closed to leasing, which would render hydrocarbon resources under these areas unrecoverable. Closure of these areas would not allow new oil and gas leasing. Valid and existing leases could be developed in the closed areas. The Nine Mile Canyon ACEC (48,838 acres) would be open</p>

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<p>(1,087 acres), Copper Globe ACEC (127 acres), Pictographs ACEC (43 acres), San Rafael Reef ACEC (74,102 acres), and Swasey's Cabin ACEC (60 acres) would be proposed for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry (Map 2-42). A total of 75,611 acres would be recommended for withdrawal. Locatable mineral entry would not be allowed in these areas after withdrawal from locatable mineral entry, which would reduce the area available for entry.</p> <p>Dry Lake Archaeological District ACEC (17,994 acres), Highway I-70 Scenic Corridor ACEC (39,493 acres), Muddy Creek ACEC (25,751 acres), Seger's Hole (7,379 acres), and Temple Mountain ACEC (2,444 acres) would be open to mineral entry with plans of operations. A total of 93,061 acres would be open to mineral entry with plans of operations, which could lead to a delay in development and/or relocation of the resource development activity.</p> <p><b>Mineral Materials</b> Bowknot Bend ACEC (1,087</p>	<p>for costly delays in oil and gas exploration and development when cultural resources are identified, disturbed, or damaged during construction activities. The Nine Mile Canyon area would be open to leasing subject to minor constraints (controlled surface use), which would limit oil and gas development and explorations. Management actions would require development to meet VRM Class IV restrictions, which would place minor restrictions on the placement of oil and gas facilities.</p> <p>Coal. No reasonable and foreseeable coal development areas are within ACECs (Map 2-43); therefore impacts to coal development from ACEC management actions would not be significant.</p> <p><b>Locatable Minerals</b> Copper Globe ACEC (127 acres), Rock Art ACEC (46,048 acres), San Rafael Reef ACEC (72,079 acres), Nine Mile Canyon (approximately 50,000 acres), and Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC (767 acres) would be proposed for withdrawal from locatable</p>	<p>to leasing subject to minor constraints (controlled surface use), which would limit oil and gas development and explorations and could compress oil and gas exploration and development into specific periods of time. In the Nine Mile Canyon, management actions would not permit oil and gas development within 100 feet of inventoried cultural resources, after completion of cultural resource inventories, which could decrease operator costs and would minimize the potential for costly delays in oil and gas exploration and development when cultural resources are identified, disturbed, or damaged during construction activities. ACEC management actions would require development to meet VRM Class II and III restrictions, which could result in the relocation of oil and gas facilities.</p> <p>Coal. No reasonable and foreseeable coal development areas are within ACECs; therefore impacts to coal activities from ACEC management actions would not be significant.</p>	<p>subject to major constraints (NSO) (40,000 acres) and closed to leasing (119,000 acres), which would deny access to hydrocarbon resources under these areas except for valid existing rights. However, the 119,000-acre portion of the-area is already closed to oil and gas leasing because it is within the Desolation Canyon WSA. The Nine Mile Canyon ACEC (48,836 acres) would be open to leasing subject to minor constraints (controlled surface use), which would limit oil and gas development and explorations and could compress oil and gas exploration and development into specific periods of time. In Nine Mile Canyon, management actions would not permit oil and gas development within 100 feet of inventoried cultural resources, after completion of cultural resource inventories, which could decrease potential operator costs and would minimize the potential for costly delays in oil and gas exploration and development when cultural resources identified, disturbed, or damaged during construction activities. ACEC</p>	<p>to leasing subject to major constraints (no surface occupancy), which would limit oil and gas development on BLM administered lands within the canyon rims. In the Nine Mile Canyon ACEC, management actions would not permit oil and gas development within 100 feet of inventoried cultural resources, after completion of cultural resource inventories, which could decrease potential operator costs and would minimize the potential for costly delays in oil and gas exploration and development when cultural resources are identified, disturbed, or damaged during construction activities. ACEC management actions would require development to meet VRM Class III restrictions, which would place minor restrictions on the placement of oil and gas facilities. Access to oil and gas resources within the ACEC would be available from non-BLM lands within the area as negotiated with land owners.</p> <p>Coal. No reasonable and foreseeable coal development areas are within ACECs; therefore impacts to coal activities from ACEC</p>

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<p>acres), Copper Globe ACEC (127 acres), Highway I-70 Scenic Corridor ACEC (39,493 acres), Muddy Creek ACEC (25,751 acres), Pictographs ACEC (43 acres), San Rafael Reef ACEC (74,102 acres), Seger's Hole ACEC (7,379 acres), Sid's Mountain ACEC (54,729 acres), and Swasey's Cabin ACEC (60 acres) would be closed to disposal of mineral materials (Map 2-42). Disposal of mineral materials would not be allowed in these 202,771 acres. If alternative mineral material deposits were to exist nearby, these actions could relocate mineral materials resource development activities.</p>	<p>mineral entry (Map 2-43). A total of approximately 169,021 acres, 93,410 acres more than Alternative 1, would be proposed for withdrawal, which would limit areas available for locatable mineral development. Dry Lake Archaeological District ACEC (17,994 acres), Highway I-70 Scenic Corridor ACEC (25,274 acres), Muddy Creek ACEC (25,751 acres), and Seger's Hole ACEC (7,379 acres) would be open to mineral entry with plans of operations (Map 2-43). A total of 76,398 acres—16,663 fewer acres than Alternative 1—would be open to mineral entry with plans of operations, which could lead to a delay in development and/or relocation of the resource development activity.</p> <p><b>Mineral Materials</b> Copper Globe ACEC (127 acres), Highway I-70 Scenic Corridor ACEC (25,274 acres), Muddy Creek ACEC (25,751 acres), Rock Art ACEC (46,048 acres), San Rafael Reef ACEC (72,079 acres), Seger's Hole ACEC (7,379 acres), and Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC (767 acres)</p>	<p><b>Locatable Minerals</b> Copper Globe ACEC (127 acres), Rock Art ACEC (16,048 acres), San Rafael Reef ACEC (72,079 acres), Range Creek ACEC (65,504 acres), Nine Mile Canyon ACEC (48,836 acres), and Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC (767 acres) would be proposed for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry (Map 2-44). Locatable mineral entry would not be allowed on these 203,361 acres—127,750 acres more than in the No Action Alternative—after withdrawal from locatable mineral entry. Dry Lake Archaeological District ACEC (14,244 acres), Highway I-70 Scenic Corridor ACEC (40,831 acres), Muddy Creek ACEC (25,751 acres), Seger's Hole ACEC (7,379 acres), Sid's Mountain ACEC (54,729 acres), Lower Green River (38,321 acres), and Beckwith Plateau (50,532 acres) would be open to mineral entry with plans of operations. Actions on these 231,787 acres—138,726 acres more than in the No Action Alternative—could lead to a delay in development and/or relocation of the resource</p>	<p>management actions would require development to meet VRM Class II and III restrictions, which could result in the relocation of oil and gas facilities. Coal. No reasonable and foreseeable coal development areas are within ACECs; therefore impacts to coal activities from ACEC management actions would not be significant.</p> <p><b>Locatable Minerals</b> Copper Globe ACEC (127 acres), Rock Art ACEC (16,048 acres), San Rafael Reef ACEC (72,079 acres), Range Creek ACEC (65,504 acres), Nine Mile Canyon ACEC (48,836 acres), Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC (767 acres), and part of the Lower Muddy Creek ACEC (8,000 acres) would be proposed for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry (Map 2-45). Locatable mineral entry would not be allowed on these 212,000 acres—137,000 acres more than No Action Alternative—after withdrawal from locatable mineral entry. Dry Lake Archaeological District ACEC (14,244 acres),</p>	<p>management actions would not be significant.</p> <p><b>Locatable Minerals</b> Big Flat Tops ACEC (192 acres), Bowknot Bend ACEC (1,087 acres), Heritage Sites ACEC (2,863 acres) (Wilsonville, Sheperds End, Smith Cabin, Hunt Cabin, Copper Globe, Swasey's Cabin, and Temple Mountain), Rock Art ACEC (16,048 acres), San Rafael Reef ACEC (71,596 acres), Range Creek ACEC (65,504 acres), Nine Mile Canyon ACEC (48,838 acres), and Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC (767 acres) would be proposed for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry (Map 2-46). A total of 206,895 acres—131,284 acres more than in the No Action Alternative—would be proposed for withdrawal, which would limit areas available for locatable mineral development. Dry Lake Archaeological District ACEC (17,996 acres), Highway I-70 Scenic Corridor ACEC (40,831 acres), Muddy Creek ACEC (25,119 acres), Seger's Hole ACEC (7,076 acres), Sid's Mountain ACEC</p>

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RESOURCES				
No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
	would be closed to disposal of mineral materials (Map 2-43). Disposal of mineral materials would not be allowed in these 177,425 acres, 25,346 fewer acres than the No Action Alternative. If alternative mineral material deposits were to exist nearby, these actions could relocate mineral materials resource development activities.	development activity.  <b>Mineral Materials</b> Copper Globe ACEC (127 acres), Highway I-70 Scenic Corridor ACEC (40,831 acres), Muddy Creek ACEC (25,751 acres), Rock Art ACEC (16,048 acres), San Rafael Reef ACEC (72,079 acres), Seger's Hole ACEC (7,379 acres), Sid's Mountain ACEC (54,729 acres), Range Creek ACEC (65,504 acres), Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC (767 acres) would be closed to disposal of mineral materials (Map 2-44). Disposal of mineral materials would not be allowed on these 283,215 acres, 80,444 acres more than in the No Action Alternative. If alternative mineral material deposits were to exist nearby, such actions could relocate mineral materials resource development activities.	Highway I-70 Scenic Corridor ACEC (40,831 acres), Muddy Creek ACEC (25,751 acres), Seger's Hole ACEC (7,379 acres), Sid's Mountain ACEC (54,729 acres), Lower Green River (38,321 acres), Beckwith Plateau (50,532 acres), White-Tailed Prairie Dog ACEC (9,000 acres), and Mussentuchit Badlands ACEC (58,000 acres) would be open to mineral entry with plans of operations. Actions on these 300,000 acres— 207,000 acres more than the No Action Alternative—could lead to a delay in development and/or relocating the resource development activity.  <b>Mineral Materials</b> Copper Globe ACEC (127 acres), Highway I-70 Scenic Corridor ACEC (40,831 acres), Muddy Creek ACEC (25,751 acres), Rock Art ACEC (16,048 acres), San Rafael Reef ACEC (72,079 acres), Seger's Hole ACEC (7,379 acres), Sid's Mountain ACEC (54,729 acres), Range Creek ACEC (65,504 acres), Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC (767 acres), and part of Desolation Canyon ACEC	(54,729 acres), and Uranium Mining Districts ACEC (4,167 acres) would be open to mineral entry with plans of operations (Map 2-46). A total of 149,918 acres—56,857 acres more than in the No Action Alternative—would be open to mineral entry with plans of operations, which could lead to a delay in development and/or relocation of the resource development activity.  <b>Mineral Materials</b> Bowknot Bend ACEC (1,087 acres), Heritage Sites ACEC (2,863 acres) (Wilsonville, Sheperds End, Smith Cabin, Hunt Cabin, Copper Globe, Swasey's Cabin, and Temple Mountain), Highway I-70 Scenic Corridor ACEC (40,831 acres), Muddy Creek ACEC (25,119 acres), Rock Art ACEC (16,048 acres), San Rafael Reef ACEC (71,596 acres), Seger's Hole ACEC (7,076 acres), Sid's Mountain ACEC (54,729 acres), Range Creek ACEC (65,504 acres), Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry ACEC (767 acres) would be closed to disposal of mineral materials (Map 2-46).



Impact Analysis				
<i>RESOURCES</i>				
No Action Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
			(119,000 acres-which is already closed because it is within the Desolation Canyon WSA) would be closed to disposal of mineral materials (Map 2-45). Disposal of mineral materials would not be allowed on these 283,215 acres, 80,444 acres more than in the No Action Alternative. If alternative mineral material deposits were to exist nearby, such actions could relocate mineral materials resource development activities.	Disposal of mineral materials would not be allowed in these 285,620 acres—82,849 acres more than Alternative 1. If alternative mineral material deposits were to exist nearby, these actions could relocate mineral materials resource development activities.

*Appendix 26 of the Price Draft RMP/EIS describes the evaluation process for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern conducted as a part of the planning process. Appendix 26 is supplemented here and re-printed in its entirety. Information provided here is a description of relevant and important criteria found in the four potential ACECs omitted from the Draft RMP/EIS in July 2004, as well as in other potential ACECs. Appendix 26, as amended, also includes a description of BLM's findings for those ACEC nominations that were found to lack relevant and important criteria and were not carried forward in planning. Clarification is made regarding how the portions of the Price River nomination that met relevant and important criteria were included with the Beckwith Plateau and Desolation Canyon Potential ACECs. Also, clarification is made regarding how the Horseshoe Canyon nomination was included within the Lower Green River Potential ACEC. All additions, as well as any other changes, are highlighted in grey below*

## **APPENDIX 26**

### **ACEC Evaluations for the Price Resource Management Plan**

#### **Introduction**

Section 202 (c) (3) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) requires that priority be given to the designation and protection of areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs). FLPMA Section 103 (a) defines ACECs as public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

The BLM requested nominations for areas that the public may see as being appropriately managed as ACEC criteria in the Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 216, November 7, 2001, Notice of Intent, Environmental Impact Statement, Price Resource Management Plan, Utah.

Nominations for ACECs were reviewed by an interdisciplinary team of BLM specialists to see if they meet mandatory relevance and importance criteria.

#### **Relevance and Importance Criteria**

To be considered for designation as an ACEC, an area must meet the requirements of relevance and importance as described in the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 1610.7.2). The definitions for relevance and importance are as follows:

## **Relevance**

An area is considered relevant if it contains one or more of the following:

1. A significant historic, cultural or scenic value (for example: rare or sensitive archaeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native American Indians).
2. A fish and wildlife resource (for example: habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).
3. A natural process or system (for example: endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relict plants or plant communities; rare geologic features).
4. A natural hazard (for example: areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of the natural process.

## **Importance**

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance to satisfy the importance criteria. This generally means it is characterized by one or more of the following:

1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.
2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.
3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.
4. Has qualities that warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

## SUMMARY OF NOMINATIONS MATRIX

Nominated Area	County	Date(s) of R & I Evaluations	Relevant & Important Criteria?	Discussion
Antelope Valley- Sweetwater Reef	Emery	4/1/04	No	Nomination was based on wilderness and recreation values. These values, while important, do not meet the definition of an ACEC or the relevance criteria.
Beckwith Plateau – Middle Mountain	Emery	4/1/04	Yes Geologic, Natural Processes	“Beckwith Plateau” potential ACEC brought forward in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS in Alts. B & C.
Cedar Mountain (northern)	Emery	4/1/04	No	Portion with values merged with “Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry” potential ACEC, and brought forward into Draft RMP/Draft EIS in Alts. A, B, C & D. The rest of the nomination did not have R & I values.
Cedar Mountain (southern)	Emery	4/1/04	No	This area was nominated for scenic values and wildlife resources. High quality scenery is certainly present within the area, but it tends to be unremarkable in a regional context. Some of the wildlife species in the nomination either do not occur or are only occasional visitors. The area is not important habitat for any of the species listed in the nomination.
Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry	Emery	4/1/04	Yes Paleontological	The “Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry” potential ACEC was considered in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS in Alts. A, B, C & D. Incorporated portion of Cedar Mountain (northern) nomination.
Desolation Canyon – Green River	Emery, Carbon	4/1/04	Yes Scenic, Cultural, Ecological	The potential ACEC was inadvertently omitted from Draft RMP/Draft EIS. Supplemental ACEC information provided for public comment (2006) includes considering the “Desolation Canyon” potential ACEC in Draft RMP/Draft EIS Alt. C.
Dirty Devil Drainage	Emery, Wayne	4/1/04	No	Evaluated by Richfield FO with concurrence from the Price Field Office Manager and no resource values were identified as occurring in the Price FO.
Gordon Creek	Carbon	4/1/04	Yes Cultural, Wildlife	Considered in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS in Alt. C.

Nominated Area	County	Date(s) of R & I Evaluations	Relevant & Important Criteria?	Discussion
Horseshoe Canyon Drainage	Emery, Wayne	4/1/04	Yes Ecology, Vegetation, Cultural	The Price FO portion of this nominated area was evaluated by the Price FO and determined to meet relevance and importance criteria. It was included as part of the Lower Green River potential ACEC and was brought forward into the Draft RMP/Draft EIS in Alt. B & C. Portions in the Richfield FO were evaluated by the Richfield FO, and likewise were found to have values.
Lower Green River	Emery	4/1/04	Yes Ecology, Vegetation, Cultural	This potential ACEC was considered in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS in Alts. B & C.
Lower Muddy Creek Drainage	Emery, Wayne	10/14/04	Yes Scenic	The Richfield FO with concurrence from the Price Field Office Manager determined R& I criteria exist in both the Price and Richfield FO areas. This potential ACEC was inadvertently omitted from Draft RMP/Draft EIS. Supplemental ACEC information provided for public comment (2006) includes considering "Lower Muddy Creek" potential ACEC in Draft RMP/Draft EIS Alt. C.
Molen Reef	Emery	4/1/04	No	Cultural portion(s) of the nominated area meeting R & I criteria were incorporated into the "Rock Art" potential ACEC. Remainder found to not have R & I criteria.
Muddy Creek	Emery	4/1/04	Yes Cultural, historic, scenic	This is an existing ACEC for which the R & I criteria were found not to extend beyond the current boundaries
Mussentuchit Badlands	Emery, Wayne	4/1/04	Yes Cultural	This potential ACEC was inadvertently omitted from Draft RMP/Draft EIS. Supplemental ACEC information provided for public comment (2006) considers "Mussentuchit Badlands" potential ACEC in Draft RMP/Draft EIS Alt. C.
Nine Mile Canyon	Carbon	4/1/04	Yes Cultural	Nominated by SUWA and Utah Statewide Archeological Society with varying boundaries. Considered in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS in Alts. B, C & D, with varying boundaries/acreages.

Nominated Area	County	Date(s) of R & I Evaluations	Relevant & Important Criteria?	Discussion
Price River	Emery, Carbon	4/1/04	No	The area was nominated for consideration of the scenic and recreational values within the Price River corridor, in addition to a historic home (on private land) and cultural resources. While these values are present, many are similar to resources found throughout the region. Further, recreation values do not meet the definition of an ACEC or the relevance criteria. However, portions of the nominated area did meet R & I criteria, and these have been incorporated into the Desolation Canyon and Beckwith Plateau ACECs.
Quitcupah Creek – Trough Hollow	Sevier	10/14/04	No	Evaluated by Richfield FO with concurrence from the Price Field Office Manager and no resource values were identified as occurring in the Price FO.
Range Creek	Emery, Carbon	4/1/04	Yes Cultural, Natural Process	Nominated by SUWA and Utah Statewide Archeological Society with varying boundaries. Brought forward into Draft RMP/Draft EIS in Alts. B, C & D with varying boundaries.
San Rafael River	Emery	4/1/04	Yes Scenic	San Rafael Canyon is an existing ACEC but expanded boundaries were nominated (including incorporating Dry Lake ACEC). It is considered in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS in all alternatives, with expanded boundaries in Alts. B & C.
Sid's Mountain	Emery	4/1/04	Yes Scenic	ACEC is existing but expanded boundaries were nominated. It is considered in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS in all alternatives, with expanded boundaries in Alt. C.
Temple-Cottonwood-Dugout Wash	Emery	4/1/04	Yes Cultural	This potential ACEC is considered in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS in Alt. C.
Thousand Lakes Bench	Sevier	10/14/04	No	Evaluated by Richfield FO with concurrence from the Price Field Office Manager and no resource values were identified as occurring in the Price FO.
White-Tailed Prairie Dog	Emery	March 2005	Yes Wildlife habitat	This potential ACEC was inadvertently omitted from Draft RMP/Draft EIS. Supplemental ACEC information provided for public comment (2006) includes considering the "White-Tailed Prairie Dog" potential ACEC in Draft RMP/Draft EIS Alt. C.

## Currently Designated ACECs

Table 1 identifies the existing 13 ACECs in the Price Field Office, which total 308,059 acres.

**Table 1**

ACEC	Acres	Values
Big Flat Tops	285	Relict vegetation
Bowknot Bend	1,087	Relict vegetation
Copper Globe	128	Historic mining district
Dry Lake	22,258	Archaeological, geological
I-70 Scenic	45,594	Scenic
Muddy Creek	28,778	Scenic, historic mining, riparian
Pictographs	7	Archeological
San Rafael Canyon	54,102	Scenic
San Rafael Reef	84,018	Scenic, relict vegetation
Seger's Hole	7,918	Scenic
Sid's Mountain	61,380	Scenic
Swasey Cabin	60	Historic ranching
Temple Mountain	2,444	Historic mining

## Potential ACECs Being Considered in the Price RMP Planning Effort

External nominations were received as part of the RMP scoping process. BLM's interdisciplinary team completed the relevance and importance review of 23 nominated ACECs. Many of these were determined to meet the relevance and importance criteria and were included in the range of alternatives. In some cases the interdisciplinary team review resulted in identification of additional resource concerns or modification of boundaries from what had been nominated. Sometimes the team determined that it would be appropriate to analyze a range of boundary options in the alternatives.

On February 19, 2002 the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) submitted ACEC nominations for Cedar Mountain (northern), Beckwith Plateau, Sid's Mountain, San Rafael River, Muddy Creek, Temple-Cottonwood-Dugout Wash, Price River, and the Lower Green River. SUWA submitted additional ACECs nominations on April 24, 2003 including Green River-Desolation Canyon, Range Creek, Molen Reef, Antelope Valley-Sweetwater Reef, Mussentuchit Badlands, Cedar Mountain (southern), and Nine Mile Canyon.

SUWA submitted a final list of nominated ACECs on June 19, 2003 including Dirty Devil Drainage, Lower Muddy Creek Drainage, Horseshoe Canyon Drainage, Quitchupah Creek, and Thousand Lakes Bench.

The Utah State Wide Archeological Society worked with the BLM to identify, using various sources, 24 heritage, rock art, and historic uranium mining district sites to consider as 3 ACECs. They also identified Nine Mile Canyon, Range Creek, and Gordon Creek for consideration as ACECs.

In addition the BLM identified Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry as an area that should be considered for ACEC designation.

The Center for Native Ecosystems nominated the White-Tailed Prairie Dog for consideration as an ACEC January 21, 2003.

### **Potential ACECs Considered within Alternatives in the Price Draft RMP/Draft EIS**

Of the areas nominated, 14 areas were determined to meet the relevance and importance criteria and are considered as potential ACECs (sometimes with optional sizes) in various alternatives in the RMP/EIS. These potential ACECs, with their maximum possible sizes, are discussed below.

#### **Expansion of Existing ACECs**

The existing Sid's Mountain and San Rafael Canyon ACECs were nominated for expansion and areas within these expanded boundaries were found to meet relevance and importance criteria. The expansion to these two ACECs was considered in Alternative C in the RMP/EIS. The existing Muddy Creek ACEC was nominated for expansion and BLM found that the additional nominated area did not meet relevance and importance criteria.

#### **Beckwith Plateau Potential ACEC (56,980 acres)**

*Relevance:* The potential ACEC contains significant features that meet the relevance criterion including 1) the isolation of the plateau as a topographic feature separated by two rivers and 1,000 foot vertical cliffs; 2) surface exposed formations which record the eastward crowding of the Mancos seaway; 3) visible coal seams; and 4) excellent expression of erosional features of the book cliffs, such as castellated and buttressed upper slopes with complex badlands below.

The potential ACEC contains crucial and high value habitat for many sensitive species, including the bald eagle, long-billed curlew, blue grosbeak, burrowing owl, common yellowthroat, ferruginous hawk, osprey, sage grouse, short-eared owl, big free-tailed bat, black-footed ferret, western red bat, spotted bat, ringtail cat, dwarf shrew, Townsend's big-eared bat, and the Utah milk snake. Sensitive big game species crucial and high value habitats are also present, and include desert bighorn sheep, and elk.

Sensitive plants may include the yellow blanketflower, Bookcliff blazing star, horse canyon stickleaf, and a hole-in-the-rock prairie clover.



*Importance:* The potential ACEC possesses a national important characteristic as a primitive outdoor classroom displaying the processes leading to the formation of coal in a classic regressive coastal sequence.

The sensitive species habitat occurring within the proposed area is fragile, irreplaceable, and vulnerable to adverse change.

**Lower Green River Potential ACEC (43,428 acres)**

*Relevance:* The potential ACEC incorporates all or portions of the existing Bowknow Bend ACEC which contains a relic plant community and significant natural history values, as well as the Dry Lake Archaeological District ACEC containing Paleo-Indian sites which are the rarest site type in Utah. The potential ACEC would also include several large and dominant side drainages of Three Canyon, Keg Spring Canyon and Horseshoe Canyon. Much of the proposed ACEC corridor is surrounded and overlapped by existing WSAs, lands the BLM has found to have wilderness characteristics, and proposed wilderness.

The Green River provides nourishment to nearby plants as well as to resident and migrating birds and other wildlife. The proposed ACEC includes crucial and high value yearlong habitat for pronghorn, desert bighorn sheep, rockloving milkvetch, Moab Woodyaster, Jones Indigo-bush, Jane's Globemallow, Dalea Flavescens Var Epica. The area also provides crucial habitat for several listed state sensitive species including he bald eagle, long-billed curlew, burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, peregrine falcon, grasshopper sparrow, Big Free Tailed Bat, black-footed ferret (federal and state endangered), spotted bat, and the Townsend's big-eared bat.

Associated riparian systems are excellent examples of riparian systems, including Horseshoe, Keg Springs, and Three Canyon. The Green River provides nourishment to nearby plants as well as to resident and migrating birds and other wildlife.

*Importance:* There is exemplary integrity of the river system; the riparian areas and wetlands provide an oasis of rare and lush vegetation as well as water in an otherwise arid environment. The corridors created along the river are not only essential the survival of the total species of the region, but also provide habitats for a large number of special status species.

**Temple-Cottonwood-Dugout Wash Potential ACEC (80,818 acres)**

*Relevance:* The potential ACEC is a unique, natural desert ecosystem with varied geologic forms, and unique riparian systems.

The prevailing winds of the area carry sands into the entrenched Cottonwood Wash forming a unique vegetated sand dune system there, as well as in other areas within the proposed boundary.

The washes and springs combine with the open desert landscape forming a complete natural system that includes a large block of crucial yearlong pronghorn habitat. In

additions the proposed region also contains important habitat for ferruginous hawk and big free-tailed bat, both special status species.

Relic plant communities that evolved without the influence of grazing animals remain in the Big Flat Tops area that is within an existing ACEC included within this proposed ACEC.

*Importance:* This area has early to middle archaic lithic scatters present.

The crucial pronghorn habitat (fawning) and the rare water sources is believed to all be threatened by oil and gas exploration development activities, ORV activity, and heavy grazing of domestic livestock.

### **Range Creek Potential ACEC (80,632 acres)**

*Relevance:* The potential ACEC includes numerous pictograph and petroglyph panels, as well as habitation sites throughout Range Creek Canyon and its side canyons. These cultural resources are some of the most intact and well-preserved sites in the United States. An ACEC status will enhance their preservation.

Range Creek and its associated riparian areas as well as the surrounding canyons and ridges provide habitat for black bear, desert bighorn sheep, elk and mule deer. The area also provides high to crucial habitats for several state and federal special status species, including ferruginous hawk (BLM threatened species), short-eared owl, burrowing owl, long-billed curlew, Williamson's sapsucker, northern goshawk, bald eagle (federal threatened species), Virgin river montane vole, dwarf shrew, big free-tailed bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, ringtail cat, western red bat, and Utah milk snake. Because of its pristine qualities, the portion of Range Creek within the proposed ACEC is potential habitat for the reintroduction of the native Colorado Cutthroat Trout and is being considered as such the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources.

The potential area features a unique desert riparian corridor that includes wetlands and riparian habitat supporting vegetation that includes sweetvetch, yellow blanketflower, Book Cliffs twinpod, *gaillardia flava*, and *physaria acutifolia* var *purpurea epica*.

*Importance:* The potential Range Creek ACEC includes the unique and ecologically significant wetlands and creek system, numerous distinct geologic formations, and exceptional wildlife habitat.

Range Creek has nationally significant, outstanding cultural resources.

The crucial habitat that exists within the proposed ACEC provides for numerous wildlife species protection and is found unique to the area. For example the Utah milk snake was listed solely due to evidence of its declining population and is one of the few reptiles found at higher elevations in Utah. The dwarf shrew is extremely rare, with only three occurrences known in Utah. Other species that is unique to the proposed are include the Townsend's big-eared bat and the Virgin River montane vole.

The extraordinary Range Creek ACEC's riparian system- Range Creek and its undeveloped riparian areas crucial wildlife habitat, outstanding cultural resources, significant wildlife populations, and rugged canyon and ridges are of national importance as a model of functioning ecosystem and natural process.

The ecological, cultural, historic, and scenic values of this ACEC are at risk from various forms of human encroachments, including off-road travel, livestock grazing, water diversions, and energy development.

**Nine Mile Canyon Potential ACEC (62,885 acres)**

*Relevance:* The potential ACEC area possesses a significant and high density of historic, cultural, and archaeological zones. It is documented to contain the country's highest concentration of rock art panels, remnants of the prehistoric Fremont Culture. It also contains many relics of the post-Civil War era when the canyon was the site of a major freight line. Because of the vast cultural and historical resources throughout the canyon, the BLM has found the area to be eligible for National Register of Historic Places.

The proposed area provides significant and high quality wildlife habitat for the mule deer, elk, black bear, mountain lion, desert bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, coyote, fox, badger, yellow-billed marmot, beaver, raven, black-billed magpie, pinyon jay, and side-blotched lizard. Also abundant in the area is the Chukar partridge, Sage, blue and Ruffed grouse, Ringnecked pheasant. Raptors including the golden eagle, prairie falcon, Redtail hawk, American kestrel and Cooper's hawk. The region is also known for its large wild horse herd.

Nine Mile Creek supports red shiner and speckled dace, in additions to roundtail chub, razorback sucker, flannelmouth sucker, Colorado Squawfish, and bluehead sucker. All special-status fish species that currently occur in the Green River are now suspected of moving up into Nine Mile Canyon.

This potential ACEC also contains habitat for or known occurrences of several special status plant species, including the Barneby's columbine, Shrubby Reed-mustard, gate Canyon buckwheat, Caespitose Cat's-eye, Mt. Bartle's buckwheat, Penstemon Grahammi, and Sclerocactus glaucus. Graham's Beardtongue, a candidate plant species for the Endangered Species Act, is also suspected to occur within this area.

*Importance:* This area is internationally significant for prehistoric archaeologically resources, nationally significant for cultural/historic resources, regionally significant for its scenic value, and has been found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The area is vulnerable to adverse change including oil and gas development, as well as off-road vehicle use that is expanding into the area.

### **Gordon Creek Potential ACEC (4,099 acres)**

*Relevance:* Gordon Creek District is a very significant archeological resource. Two agricultural communities occupied it -a prehistoric Fremont cultural occupation about 1000 years ago and a historic pioneer occupation about 100 years ago. Although this situation existed elsewhere, the early abandonment of the historic occupation and a natural closure of the area have left sites relatively undisturbed and provide an opportunity to study the similarity and differences of the two cultural responses to the same area.

*Importance:* Although there are many other places where the Fremont and Historic peoples farmed the same area, Gordon Creek is unique. In most places the Historic activities turned into modern activities that has damaged or destroyed the Fremont and Historic sites. It now is the only known area where such study can take place.

The district has recently become more fragile and threatened, as oil and gas development increases on both sides and OHVs are developing trails up the middle of it. The area is being open up to the access of site vandals.

### **Heritage Sites Potential ACEC (7 sites – 2869 acres)**

*Relevance:* This ACEC includes several sites associated with the early historic uses on the public lands in Emery County including: Wilsonville, Shepherds End, Smith Cabin, Hunt Cabin, Copper Globe, Temple Mountain, and Swasey Cabin. A National Heritage Conservation Area has been proposed for the San Rafael area and these sites represent this heritage on public lands of that area.

*Importance:* As sites within a proposed National Heritage Conservation area, these represent historic uses of public land in the West.

These sites have recently become more fragile and threatened. Visitors not knowing the significance of these sites have been improperly using them (i.e. removing artifacts, removing wood from buildings for use of fire wood, ORV trails through sites, etc.).

### **Uranium Mining Districts Potential ACEC (4 sites - 4161 acres)**

These sites include Tidwell Draw, Hidden Splendor, Susan B, and Lucky Strike Mining Districts.

*Relevance:* This potential ACEC includes several significant mining sites associated with the development of uranium as part of U.S. efforts during the escalation of the Cold War during the 1950s.

*Importance:* The sites are part of a National effort -the development of uranium as a deterrent in the Cold War. The history of these sites can only be retrieved by studies of the resources on the ground and oral histories.

These sites have recently become more fragile and threatened. Visitors not knowing the significance of these sites have been improperly using them (i.e. removing artifacts,

removing wood from buildings for use of fire wood, ORV trails through sites, etc.). These sites are in danger of being destroyed before they can be studied.

**Rock Art Potential ACEC (13 sites – 18,139 acres)**

This potential ACEC includes Black Dragon Canyon, Head of Sinbad, Lone Warrior, Rochester/Muddy Petroglyphs, Big Hole, Cottonwood Wash, Wild Horse, Sand Cove, Dry Wash, Short Canyon, North Salt Wash, Molen Seep, and Kings Crown.

*Relevance:* These sites are some of the best examples of prehistoric Rock Art on the Colorado Plateau. Many are world-famous. They are being visited more every year. Their popularity has grown following mention in several publications including National Geographic (Smith, 1980; Schaafsma, 1971: and Castleton, 1984) and being identified as part of the San Rafael National Heritage Area.

*Importance:* In addition to the discussion under Relevance, a big conflict that presently threatens these sites is between the public use of rock art and the destruction of the scientific potential of the associated archaeological sites. Also the surrounding lands are public lands used by OHVs, grazing, and mineral exploration.

**Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry Potential ACEC (767 acres)**

*Relevance:* The Cleveland-Lloyd bone deposit itself is the densest concentration of Jurassic dinosaur bones in the world. It is also the world's largest collection of a large meat-eating dinosaur (*Allosaurus fragilis*) yet found. Eighteen scientific papers published in the last 10 years have been written about the place and it still remains unsuccessfully explained. The 767 acres included in this proposed ACEC includes the Cleveland-Lloyd deposit and adjacent lands. The adjacent lands have a minimum of 15 dinosaur track sites containing at least 35 dinosaur tracks. Since 1992, when one was first discovered, new tracks have been located on almost an annual basis. These adjacent lands also have a minimum of 32 sites where dinosaur bone is visible at the surface. At least one-third of these are easily identifiable as fossilized bone by anyone walking by. The others are identifiable by persons with a bare minimum of training.

*Importance:* The Cleveland-Lloyd deposit itself is one of a kind, unique in the world. It is still not understood how it came to be and continues to receive attention from research paleontologists. Because of the deposit, the area around it also receives a lot of attention, both from scientists and the interested public drawn from across the nation and around the world. Cleveland-Lloyd deposit and adjacent lands represent an exceptional opportunity for scientific and educational use of fossils to educate the interested public in fossiliferous and geologic matters.

Special management attention is required to protect known and undiscovered paleontological resources in the proposed ACEC. Guided tours into the adjacent lands by the BLM Staff at Cleveland-Lloyd are commonly given to those interested in learning more about dinosaurs and geology. The tours must be staff-guided because many of the fossils are exposed at the surface and are fragile. Also, past experience at other public

sites has demonstrated that publishing a map with vertebrate fossil locations allowing for self-guided tours results in an increase of unauthorized, illegal collection of fossils.

**Desolation Canyon Potential ACEC (159,246 Acres)** (A portion of the original nomination has been removed from this potential ACEC and stands alone as the Range Creek Potential ACEC. The Desolation Canyon Potential ACEC is contiguous on its northern boundary with the Nine Mile Canyon Potential ACEC and Vernal Field Office's Lower Green River ACEC), 119,000 acres of the ACEC are within the Desolation Canyon WSA.

**Relevance:** Desolation Canyon has scenic and cultural values and ecological systems and processes. The scenery of the area is Class A under the BLM's VRM inventory system. The viewshed is of a natural, unaltered landscape with dramatic topography, varied vegetative composition and water features.

The Canyon contains a series of cultural and historic features. Thousands of rock art, habitation and food storage sites are found throughout the canyon. While Fremont sites are the most prolific, archaic through Ute sites are also found. The landscape of the canyon itself is a historic feature. It is the least changed landscape of all the Green and Colorado River segments explored by John Wesley Powell in 1869. It also contains historic structures and artifacts from the homestead era representing isolated wilderness settlement rather than the Utah's typical Mormon village settlement patterns. It is also closely associated with western outlaw history. The potential ACEC contains part of the Desolation Canyon National Historic Landmark. It also has many sites listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Desolation Canyon is a migratory corridor for a great many migratory birds and a nesting area for waterfowl and shorebirds. It contains terrestrial habitats that range from desert to subalpine in over 5,000 feet of vertical relief. It is a wintering area for herds of elk and deer found on the Tavaputs Plateau. It is also a wintering ground for bald eagle and year round habitat for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. There is at least four nesting pair of peregrine falcon in the canyon. The river is a source of water and habitat for most of the species in the region.

The nominated area includes potential habitat for endangered, threatened or sensitive species. These are listed below:

- Southwestern willow flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii extimus*; federally endangered
- Humpback chub, *Gila cypha*; federally endangered
- Razorback sucker, *Xyrauchen texanus*; federally endangered
- Colorado pikeminnow, *Ptychocheilus lucius*; federally endangered
- bonytail chub, *Gila elegans*; federally endangered
- Bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*; federally threatened
- Mexican spotted owl, *Strix occidentalis lucida*; federally threatened
- long-billed curlew, *Numenius americanus*; BLM sensitive
- burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia*; BLM sensitive
- western red bat, *Lasiurus blossevillei*; BLM sensitive
- Townsend's big-eared bat, *Plecotus townsendii*; BLM sensitive
- ferruginous hawk, *Buteo regalis*; BLM sensitive
- spotted bat, *Euderma maculatum*; BLM sensitive
- roundtail chub, *Gila robusta*; BLM sensitive
- Flannelmouth sucker, *Catostomus latipinnis*; BLM sensitive

- bluehead sucker, *Catostomus discobulus*; BLM sensitive
- sage grouse, *Centrocercus urophasianus*; BLM sensitive

The potential ACEC also contains:

- Uinta Basin hookless cactus, *Sclerocactus glaucus*; federally threatened
- Graham's beardtongue, *Penstemon grahamii*; federal candidate
- Jones indigo-bush, *Psoralea polydenia* var. *jonesii*; BLM sensitive
- Yellow blanketflower, *Gaillardia flava*; (Emery and Grand counties, endemic)

The nominated area encompass approximately 80 miles of the Green River which contains riparian plant communities. The area also includes portions of Jack Creek, Flat Canyon, Rock Creek, Trail Canyon, Three Canyon, Range Creek and the Price River which contain riparian plant communities.

**Importance:** Desolation Canyon is Utah's deepest canyon. It is nationally and internationally known and significant for all its diverse values. The resources of Desolation Canyon are fragile and vulnerable to change.

### **Mussentuchit Badlands Potential ACEC (58,398 Acres)**

**Relevance:** The area contains significant geologic features including igneous lava dikes and other volcanic intrusions. The Mussentuchit Badlands offer a wealth of fossils including dinosaurs, invertebrate and plant fossils.

The area also contains extensive lithic scatter sites indicating use by past cultures. Much of the area was once covered by a deposit of red white and gray variegated chert directly overlain with a thick layer of basalt. As these badlands have been dissected by erosion the chert beds have been exposed. The prehistoric quarrying areas are important for the study of local prehistoric economies and the stone material is distinctive enough to be studied as part of regional trading systems. Lack of vegetation in the area makes these resources very visible and vulnerable.

**Importance:** The igneous lava dikes or fins are unique with the Colorado Plateau region of Utah. The fossil resources are gaining in appreciation and attention from research institutions on a national basis.

The archaeological sites represent an exceptional opportunity for scientific study of prehistoric regional trade. These chert beds were undoubtedly an important regional resource of material. Quarrying and processing the material took place on site and the chert was traded over a wide area. The quarry sites are unique in that they are not closely associated with habitation and foraging areas and are in a relatively inhospitable area.

### **White-Tailed Prairie Dog Potential ACEC (9,204 Acres)**

**Relevance:** The Castle Valley Complex provides habitat for the white-tailed prairie dog, a BLM Utah sensitive species. The dog towns create a habitat feature for other sensitive species such as the burrowing owl, long-billed curlew, and the "endangered" black footed ferret. On November 9, 2004 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed a petition to list the white-tailed prairie dog under the Endangered Species Act and concluded the petition did not contain substantial scientific data that the petitioned action might be warranted.

**Importance:** The Castle Valley complex is the largest (over 5,000 acres) of the prairie dog towns and complexes in the PFO. Based on the most recent inventories of white-tailed prairie dog colonies, there are 10 relatively large white-tailed prairie dog complexes remaining in North America (each occupying more than 5,000 acres). An estimated 55 percent of white-tailed prairie dog habitat is found on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Black-footed ferrets are not known to be present in the Castle Valley complex.

### **Horseshoe Canyon ACEC (17,446 Acres)**

This nomination was incorporated into the Lower Green River ACEC under alternatives B and C.

**Relevance:** The nominated area contains riparian areas and wetlands which provide an oasis of rare and lush vegetation as well as water in an otherwise arid environment. Drawn to this environment was the enigmatic culture that produced the haunting Barrier Canyon style of rock art. Horseshoe Canyon (also known as Barrier Canyon) is the characteristic locality for this cultural site type.

**Importance:** The riparian areas and wetlands within Horseshoe Canyon provide crucial habitat for wildlife and neotropical birds. The existence of water in Horseshoe Canyon is derived from natural processes. Water percolates through the various geologic substrates until it encounters the Carmel formation. This geologic formation is less permeable and tends to move water laterally. The combination of hydrologic, geologic and botanical processes also creates the beautiful hanging gardens found in Horseshoe Canyon.

The cultural resources of the area show the prehistoric exploitation of this desert ecological setting in a relatively undisturbed context (especially of those peoples who produced the Barrier Canyon rock art in the Horseshoe Canyon extension of Canyonlands National Park.) This rock art if removed from its cultural context makes it almost meaningless for interpretation of past peoples and connections with the present.

### **Lower Muddy Creek Potential ACEC (29,854 Acres)**

**Relevance:** The landscape within the potential Lower Muddy Creek ACEC contains vibrant multiple colored visuals intermingled with badland topography. These scenic values are of exceptional quality and the area is Class A scenery. Because of its proximity to Goblin State Park some of the rare “goblins” can also be found. The southeast quarter area also contains high value habitat for pronghorn antelope. Three threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants occur within the area, which are Wright fishhook cactus, Psoralea globemallow, and Heil’s Beavertail.

**Importance:** The scenery attracts people from outside the area and is therefore more than locally significant. There are documented occurrences of the three threatened, endangered or sensitive plants with at least one endemic in Emery County

## **NOMINATED ACECs FOUND TO LACK RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE**

### **THOUSAND LAKE BENCH**

This area was nominated for scenic, cultural, wildlife, plants, ecologic, riparian, geologic and natural systems values. The majority of the nominated ACEC is within the Richfield Field Office, which is currently revising its land use plans. As part of the Richfield planning effort, the Richfield Field Office evaluated the nominated ACEC and found that it contains relevant and important (R&I) criteria. They are cultural, bald eagle, last chance townsendia, Wright’s fishhook cactus, and riparian. However, the Richfield evaluation with the concurrence of the



Price Field Office Manager determined that none of these R&I criteria extend into the Price Field Office. Richfield will be carrying the portion of the area with relevance and importance criteria forward in their planning process and Price will drop their portion from any further consideration.

### **Dirty Devil Drainage**

This area was nominated for scenic, cultural, wildlife, natural processes, plant, and geologic values. The majority of the nominated ACEC is within the Richfield Field Office, which is currently revising its land use plans. As part of the Richfield planning effort, the Richfield Field Office evaluated the nominated ACEC and found that it contains R&I criteria. They are scenic, cultural, paleontological (dinosaur tracks), crucial Desert Bighorn sheep habitat, three endangered, threatened, or sensitive plants, and riparian resources. However, the Richfield evaluation with the concurrence of the Price Field Office Manager determined that none of these R&I criteria extend into the Price Field Office. Richfield will be carrying the portion of the area with relevant and important criteria forward in their planning process and Price will drop their portion from any further consideration.

### **Quitcupah Creek**

This area was nominated for scenic, cultural, wildlife, ecological/riparian, and geologic values. The majority of the nominated ACEC is within the Richfield Field Office, which is currently revising its land use plans. As part of the Richfield planning effort they evaluated the nominated ACEC and found that it contains R&I criteria. They are cultural, bald eagle, Creutzfeldt flower, last chance townsendia, and riparian values. However, the Richfield evaluation with the concurrence of the Price Field Office Manager determined that none of these R&I values extend into the Price Field Office. Richfield will be carrying the portion of the area with relevance and importance criteria forward in their planning process and Price will drop their portion from any further consideration.

### **Cedar Mountain North**

This area was nominated for cultural, historic and scenic values as well as for wildlife and sensitive species. There are some relevant and important paleontological values within the nominated ACEC. The areas that contain these relevant and important criteria are included as part of the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry Potential ACEC. The values for which the larger area was nominated were found to be present, but are very similar to those found throughout the region. Therefore, the remaining area was found not to meet relevance and importance criteria.

### **Molen Reef**

This area was nominated for cultural and wildlife resources. Relevant and important cultural resources are present within the nominated area. The areas that contain these values were incorporated into the Rock Art Potential ACEC. The wildlife values of the area are similar to those found throughout the region and are thus not significant. Therefore, the remaining area was found not to meet relevance and importance criteria.

### **Price River**

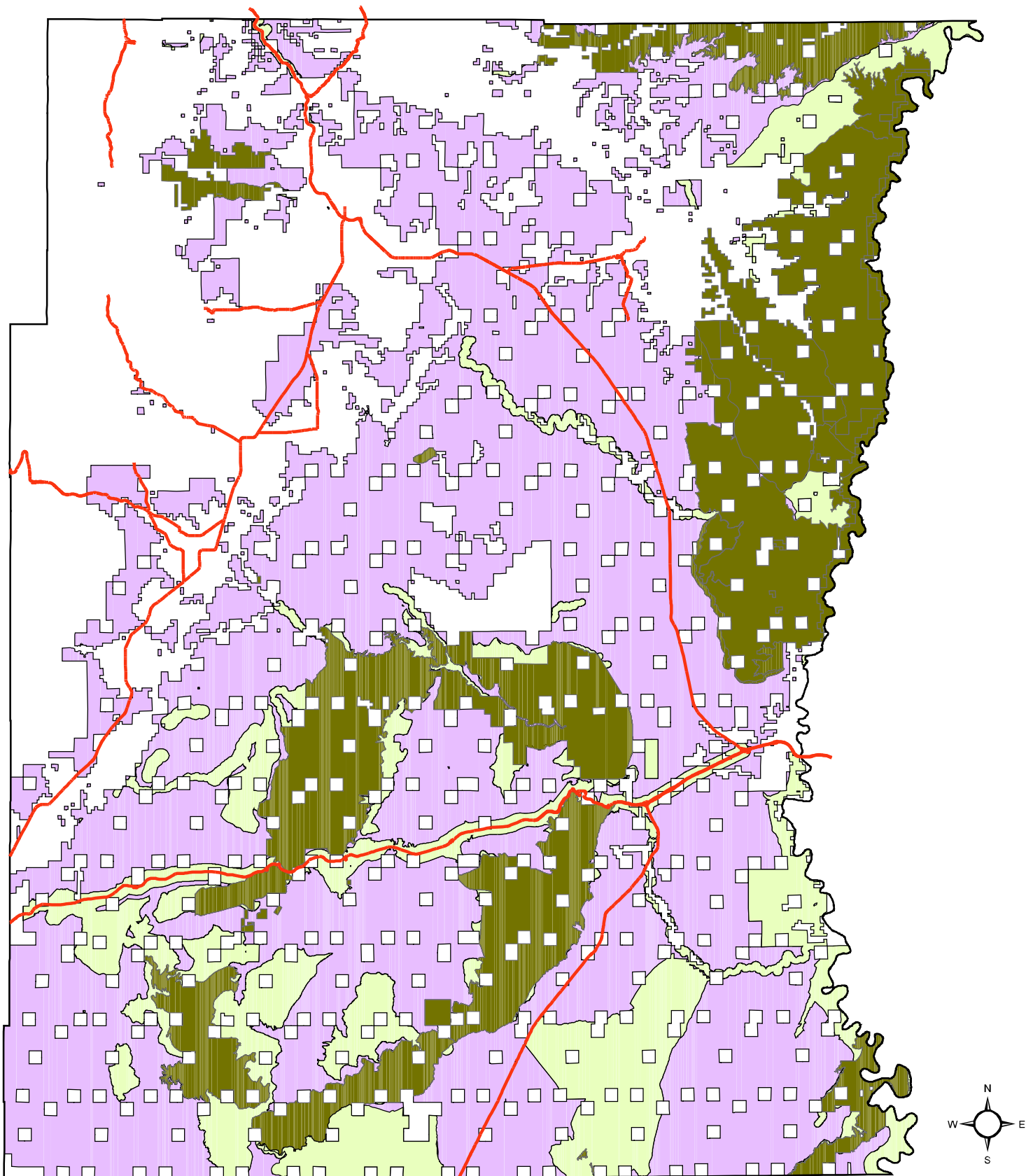
The nominated Price River ACEC is divided into the Upper and Lower Price River, separated by US 6. The area was nominated for historic, cultural, scenic, geologic, fish and wildlife, and riparian values within the Price River corridor. In the Upper Price River these resources are present, but they are similar to resources found throughout the region and are thus not significant. In the Lower Price River these resources are present and much of the area overlays the nominated Desolation Canyon and Beckwith Plateau ACECs. The areas outside the Desolation Canyon and Beckwith Plateau Potential ACECs were found not to meet relevance and importance criteria.

### **Cedar Mountain South**

This area was nominated for scenic values and wildlife resources. High quality scenery is certainly present within the area, but it tends to be unremarkable in a regional context. Some of the wildlife species presented in the nomination either do not occur or are only occasional visitors. The area is not important habitat for any of the species listed in the nomination. Therefore, the area was found not to meet relevance and importance criteria.

### **Antelope Valley-Sweetwater Reef**





Nomination was based on wilderness and recreation values alone. These values do not meet the criteria of an ACEC.



## Fluid Mineral Leasing Alternative C

Map 2-30



-  Areas open to leasing, subject to terms and conditions of the lease form
-  Areas open to leasing, subject to minor constraints
-  Areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints
-  Areas closed to leasing



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